

Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

Public Hearing – 10 September 2021
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Hearing 10 September 2021 - Inquiry into the Interactive Gambling Amendment (Prohibition on Credit Card Use) Bill 2020.

Question reference number: IQ21-000115

Senator: Anne Urquhart

Type of Question: Spoken. **Hansard Page/s:**

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 29 September 2021

Question:

Senator URQUHART: Okay. Some stakeholders have raised the issues of offshore gaming, credit and payment-processing services, noting that they're difficult or impossible to regulate. Can you tell me how big this problem is?

Ms Hefren-Webb: By definition, it's hard to know how big an unregulated sector is, because it's illegal to operate here. ACMA has provided figures about how many providers they've shut down. I don't know, Chris or Mary, whether you have the most recent estimates on this?

Mr D'Souza: I don't have any figures on that. I'd have to take that on notice.

Answer:

The size of the offshore wagering market in Australia is difficult to quantify due to the lack of transparency associated with offshore wagering.

The 2015 report by the Hon Barry O'Farrell: *Review of Illegal Offshore Wagering* (the O'Farrell Report) also defined the size of the offshore wagering market in Australia as difficult to quantify with certainty. The O'Farrell Report outlines information from Global Betting and Gambling Consultants (GBGC), which indicated the offshore wagering market in Australia in 2014 was \$63.9 million. However, according to H2 Gambling Capital (H2GC), the size of the offshore wagering market was significantly larger at \$400 million in 2014.