

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19  
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Written Questions from Senator Siewert - Question 7

**Question reference number:** SQ20-000495

**Senator:** Rachel Siewert

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

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 10 July 2020

**Question:**

Data from Illion and AlphaBeta shows that men who accessed early Super focused much of their spending on discretionary items, including gambling. In fact, men spent an extra \$290 a fortnight on gambling (coming off a base of \$56 at pre-COVID levels).

What steps did the government take to reduce the risk that superannuation would be funnelled into the pockets of corporate bookmakers or offshore gambling sites at a time when families needed it most?

**Answer:**

Questions on superannuation should be directed to the Department of the Treasury.

For information on the Government's actions to combat problem gambling during the Coronavirus pandemic refer to SQ20-000493.