

## **Submission to the “Advertising and promotion of gambling services in sport” inquiry**

**08 April 2013**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my discomfort and opposition to the increasing reliance and normalisation of gambling particularly in the format of sports betting that appears to be occurring at present.

I have been a fan of rugby league for many years. I have particularly enjoyed watching the National Rugby League. Over the last couple of years my enjoyment of this game has decreased because of the increasingly brazen promotion of sports betting. Tom Waterhouse’s sports betting being the most prominent example of this. I am aware that Channel Nine have recently taken some steps to create a greater distinction between sports betting and the ordinary rugby league broadcast. Nevertheless, sports betting continues to maintain a prominent presence in the rugby league broadcast.

I work in the field of child protection and therefore from time to time see the impacts that problem gambling can have on families and the vulnerability that certain people have to this activity (or gambling in general). Therefore I hold concerns about the likelihood of increasing social issues caused by problem gambling and the contribution that the present level of sports betting promotion may play in this.

I believe that the current trend of sports betting promotion warrants consideration as to whether this is a path we want to continue to head down and whether the present acceptance and promotion of this activity is desirable. Gambling creates a myriad of problems in society and I believe regulation of the worst excesses of this activity is appropriate much the same as we regulate alcohol and tobacco use. I would like to request that you consider these issues in any policy discussions that occur.

I have been disappointed by the Labor party’s decision to not follow through on commitments it had made to regulate the pokies industry. This is an issue that I will consider when determining my vote at the upcoming election. I hope that the inquiry into sports betting will rigorously explore this issue and that appropriate regulations are proposed.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

David Shliahov