

Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
PORTFOLIO

Inquiry into the prevention and treatment of problem gambling

Date: 14 May 2012

Question No: 4

Hansard Page: 56

Topic: \$1 maximum bet limits

Senator Nick Xenophon asked:

Did the change of maximum bet limits in Victoria (from \$10 to \$5) involve changing many machines? If it is possible to change maximum bet limits on machines from \$10 to \$5 via the software, then presumably you could change one from \$10 to \$1 without much difficulty?

Answer:

The Department has received advice that it is possible to change the maximum bet limit of gaming machines where relevant variations or parameters already exist within the machine software (games). If suitable variations or parameters do not already exist then the gaming machine's game software would need to be replaced. Older machines cannot accommodate new game software, in which case the hardware would also need to be replaced.

The GTA has advised that less than one per cent of existing gaming machines can be modified to achieve a \$1 bet limit because the relevant variations or parameters do not exist within the machine software. Based on this advice, a national implementation of a \$1 maximum bet limit would require changing the software of 99 per cent of gaming machines. Many machines will also require minor hardware upgrades, including new button panels, screens and cost of play displays.

The Gaming Technologies Association ('GTA') has also advised the Department that many games are already designed such that a \$5 maximum bet is one of the variations or parameters. Where a \$5 maximum bet capability already exists within gaming machine software, the software can be configured in the field to set or select the \$5 maximum bet limit.