

Dear Sir/Madam,

Practical Project ERNA described at www.erna4aus.weebly.com would produce an environment enabling complete control of problem gambling.

Gambling is an identified problem for only a small segment of the population: such people are unable to resist gambling. They are prepared to gamble away all of their money and their family's money and possessions. They may even commit crimes to fund their gambling habit.

This project is able to curb peoples ability to gamble. It can restrict their gambling anywhere from 0-100 percent. The system knows what is being sold/bought and when and can be made to prevent transaction completion. The system can also know about peoples ability to cover their existing living expenses and debts — their budget, in effect. On that basis, it is proposed that people would only be allowed to gamble with money in excess of those expense and debt commitments projected at that moment in time. By request it could further restrict money available for gambling. This system is also capable of identifying problem gambling and recommending intervention. It can also be used to prevent business expense accounts being utilised for gambling without authorisation. Problem gamblers cannot defraud to support their habit.

This is completely private: only the person and the system is aware and there is no need to grant access to that information to any other party. The system itself keeps the expense data and personal identification data separate so no one can surreptitiously put the two together.

This proposal recognises the damage done by inappropriate levels of gambling. It saves those who are problem gamblers and in particular, their families and friends; but, does not penalise non-problem gamblers.

This feature has other social uses too.

As a comprehensive solution for the long term, your committee is asked to support the concept of Project ERNA in its report.