

25 October 2012

Mr Andrew Wilkie MP
Chair
Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Wilkie

Re: The Poker Machine Harm Reduction (\$1 Bet and other Measures) Bill 2012

I write on behalf of Manningham City Council to respond to the Poker Machine Harm Reduction (\$1 Bet and other Measures) Bill 2012.

Manningham City Council has recently adopted its Gambling Policy and Action Plan 2012 – 2017. In this Policy (see attached), Council demonstrates its commitment to reducing the prevalence of problem gambling and the nexus between problem gambling and EGMs in particular. Council is committed to working with the community to encourage responsible gambling and minimise the harmful economic and social impacts of problem gambling.

Some of the specific concerns of Manningham City Council has in regard to gambling include:

- The amount of money lost to EGMs each year
- The impact of problem gambling on community service providers in Manningham
- The impact of problem gambling on the disadvantaged residents, including people on low income, seniors, CALD communities, those socially isolated and young people.

As referenced in Council's Gambling Policy and Action Plan 2012-2017, Council in association with other community partners, is actively working to minimise gambling related harm and the incidence of problem gambling. The Policy also recognises the need to advocate to the Federal and State Governments to introduce further measures to minimise potential gambling related harm, in line with the 2010 Productivity Commission Report recommendations.

I, therefore, wish to advise that Manningham City Council strongly supports the Poker Machine Harm Reduction (\$1 Bets and Other Measures) Bill 2012 and looks forward to a favourable outcome on this matter.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the Poker Machine Harm Reduction (\$1 Bet and other Measures) Bill 2012.

Yours faithfully

LEIGH HARRISON
Acting Chief Executive

Encl. Gambling Policy and Action Plan 2012 - 2017