



**RACING AND WAGERING WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**SUBMISSION TO THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON GAMBLING  
REFORMS**

**INQUIRY INTO THE PREVALENCE OF INTERACTIVE AND  
ONLINE GAMBLING IN AUSTRALIA AND GAMBLING ADVERTISING**

**RACING AND WAGERING WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
(RWWA)**

**SUBMITTED 15 JULY 2011**

## **Background**

### **Inquiry into interactive and online gambling and gambling advertising**

#### **Terms of Reference**

The prevalence of interactive and online gambling in Australia and the adequacy of the Interactive Gambling Act 2001 to effectively deal with its social and economic impacts, with particular reference to:

- (a) the recent growth in interactive sports betting and the changes in online wagering due to new technologies;
- (b) the development of new technologies, including mobile phones, smart phones and interactive television, that increase the risk and incidence of problem gambling;
- (c) the relative regulatory frameworks of online and non-online gambling;
- (d) inducements to bet on sporting events online;
- (e) the risk of match-fixing in sports as a result of the types of bets available online, and whether certain types of bets should be prohibited, such as spot-betting in sports which may expose sports to corruption;
- (f) the impact of betting exchanges, including the ability to bet on losing outcomes;
- (g) the implications of betting on political events, particularly election outcomes;
- (h) appropriate regulation, including codes of disclosure, for persons betting on events over which they have some participation or special knowledge, including match-fixing of sporting events; and
- (i) any other related matters.

Under terms of reference a, b, d and i the committee has decided to include gambling advertising as a specific area of inquiry. The committee is interested in views on: the level of gambling advertising; the display of betting odds at venues and during match broadcasts; commentators referring to the odds; and the general impact of gambling advertising on sport.

## **RWWA's Submission**

This submission is made after the 30 June 2011 deadline.

RWWA requests it be given consideration in the context of other matters that have now been included in evidence provided to the review committee.

RWWA is aware that Australian Federal and State Government Ministers responsible for legislation and administration of the IGA and Sports levels have also been active in this arena recently.

### **Hon Stephen Conroy - Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

The Council of Australian Governments Select Council on Gambling Reform announced in a communiqué dated 27 May 2011 that:

*“the Australian Government, after consultation with the states and territories, has decided that the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy will undertake a review of the operation of the Interactive Gambling Act 2001.”*

RWWA has written to Minister Conroy requesting detail relating to the intent for the review of the IGA.

It is anticipated that this will provide an avenue for RWWA to make an additional formal submission relating to the specific terms of reference for this review.

### **Senator Xenophon's Bill**

Given that the Government has announced the above review of the IG, RWWA will not provide comment on this draft legislation at this stage.

### **Joint Senate Select Committee on Gambling Reform**

RWWA's submission relating to the terms of reference is as follows;

- (a) RWWA support and restates the views put forward in the Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor Review WA (DRGL) submission;

Conclusions;

1. With the growth in activities of off-shore internet gambling providers, the inability to enforce restrictions relating to the offshore online gaming market significantly undermines Australia's regulatory regime;
2. Western Australia's primary position is that more should be done to support the intent of the IGA by exploring ways to improve its effectiveness in relation to controlling the access of offshore online gaming operators to Australian customers;
3. If, after review, it is concluded that there is no practical option to improve the effectiveness of the IGA, then provided that individual jurisdictions, such as Western Australia where electronic gaming machines outside the

casino are illegal, could "opt out" whereby operators are prohibited from receiving registrations from residents of that jurisdiction, Western Australia would support consideration of a model for regulating online gaming to Australians, subject to strict conditions about probity and integrity, advertising, bet types, and harm prevention and minimisation.

- (b) Development of new technologies is not seen as the most significant issue. Provision of credit for wagering without adequate regulation/control/harm minimisation principles is however a significant issue. RWWA supports the requirement for pre-commitment on all electronic wagering/gaming and prohibition of wagering/gaming operators providing credit for wagering (minimum controls limits to be put in place through legislation);
- (c) RWWA supports the view that the current regulatory framework is ineffective and IGA needs to be strengthened (introduction of Financial Transaction controls) and/or amended to provide regulatory framework for licensed Australian operators to provide a regulated service;
- (d) RWWA would endorse a strengthening of powers to prohibit unlawful advertising and provide regulatory framework for advertising standards relating to gaming/wagering services;
- (e) RWWA supports the establishment of a national policy relating to integrity in sports;
- (f) No comment;
- (g) RWWA supports the establishment of a national policy relating to integrity in sports;
- (h) No comment

RWWA would appreciate the opportunity to provide further comments to the review committee should there be further submissions or hearings scheduled.