

Committee Secretary  
Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

29 March 2013

Dear Committee Secretary

Earlier today I logged on to Facebook to check messages and posts from friends and family. To my surprise I was confronted with a post - an in-your-face advertisement for sports gambling – from [www.prohorseracetips.com](http://www.prohorseracetips.com). I found it really irritating. I'm not a gambler although, because it is relevant to the Committee's Inquiry, I confess to attempting to use [www.tomwaterhouse.com](http://www.tomwaterhouse.com) last November to make a bet for the Melbourne Cup. In the end I did not make a bet but the website got my email address. Perhaps this is how months later I'm confronted with a sports betting advertisement on Facebook.

This week there were media reports about the Committee's Inquiry (a JJJ segment comes to mind) and I noted concerns about the intrusive nature of gambling advertising during the broadcasting of sporting events, particularly those watched by younger members of the community.

Facebook's approach to advertisements of any variety is irritating but its condoning of gambling advertisements raises questions relevant to your inquiry and so I have taken a few minutes to report my experience. I note that on the website [www.tomwaterhouse.com](http://www.tomwaterhouse.com) there is a link to the company's Facebook page. On Facebook it is all in easy reach of those in the community who may be impressionable and/or vulnerable to gambling advertising.

Facebook allows a user to report advertising that he/she considers inappropriate and/or they do not like and, to the extent that I can trust Facebook, I believe that I have done that with messages of complaint sent to the advertiser and to Facebook.

Kind regards

Trevor Rowe