

Lyn Beverley
Committee Secretary
Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Email: gamblingreform@aph.gov.au

Dear Joint Select Committee

Re: Inquiry into the prevalence of interactive and online gambling in Australia and gambling advertising

Netball Australia welcomes the Australian Parliament's wide ranging inquiries into gambling and is grateful for the opportunity to make a submission to the Joint Select Committee's Inquiry.

As Australia's leading female sport, Netball Australia and the State Netball Associations are committed to the provision of innovative and sustainable netball programs to facilitate social change and empowerment of women and girls.

Netball is ranked as the leading women's participation team sport and the top team based sport in Australia for 15 to 24 year olds. Over 1.2 million participants enjoy the game nationally and Australia has been dominant on the international stage since 1963. Netball Australia has more than 330,000 registered members; 5,000 clubs nationally; 570 Associations; and eight member organisations.

In addressing the current terms of reference, Netball Australia, as a member of the Coalition of Major Professional and Participation Sports (COMPPS)¹, draws the Joint Select Committee's attention to the COMPPS submission of September 2010 to the Senate Community Affairs Committee's inquiry into the prevalence of interactive and online gambling in Australia. Accordingly, Netball Australia will comment only on the additional items of the current inquiry; namely terms of reference (e) and the issue of gambling advertising.

(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;

- Netball Australia welcomes the announcement of 10 June 2011 by the Sport and Recreation Minister's Council of a National Policy on Match-Fixing in Sport to provide the foundation for all Australian governments to work with sports and betting companies to deter and deal with corruption in sport.

¹ The Coalition of Major Professional and Participation Sports (COMPPS) consists of the Australian Football League; Australian Rugby Union; Cricket Australia; Football Federation Australia; National Rugby League; **Netball Australia**; and Tennis Australia. One of COMPPS' roles is to provide a collective response on behalf of its member sports where their interests are aligned.



- A critical aspect of the National Policy is the agreement to pursue nationally consistent legislative arrangements. It is preferable that this Legislation is Federal, specific to sport, creating a criminal offence of “cheating in connection with sports wagering”.
- If each state and territory continues to have their own Legislation, it is critical that the individual Legislation is mirrored in its entirety across the country with regard to offences, penalties, application and definitions. The NSW Law Reform Commission Inquiry into Cheating at Gambling sets out the current inconsistencies.
- Netball Australia supports the notion of the right of veto for sports over types of “spot betting”; and strongly discourages any bets on scenarios that could be open to breaches of integrity.
- Netball Australia now awaits the outcomes of both the Attorneys General deliberations on a consistent approach to criminal offences in relation to match fixing; and the Sport and Recreation Minister’s Council cross jurisdictional working group’s implementation work plan.

offer a view 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.

- Netball Australia refers to the 27 May 2011 Communiqué from the Council of Australian Governments Select Council on Gambling Reform. In particular that Ministers agreed to; take action to reduce and control the promotion of live odds during sports coverage; and consult with industry as to the scope of the measures designed to reduce and control the promotion of live odds during sports coverage.
- Netball Australia supports the premise that in the first instance, industry will be provided with the opportunity to address this issue through amendments to their existing industry codes. However, if satisfactory amendments are not in place by the end of June 2012, the Australian Government will consider the need for Legislation.
- Netball Australia also supports the need to have strict guidelines in relation to the promotion of sports betting and in particular the updating of live odds at games and aggressive promotion of betting.

Netball Australia will continue working with other major sports through COMPPS in progressing policy discussions on these issues.

Netball Australia welcomes appropriate safeguards to ensure the integrity of sport and to minimize the harm caused by problem gambling.

Yours faithfully

Nadine Cohen
Head of Strategy and Government Liaison

20 June 2011