

Dear Senator,

I believe that the Interactive gambling act 2001 or IGA 2001 does not hold the benefits of the Australian community as a whole.

These are the FACTS i hope you take the time to thoroughly look through

By preventing online gambling operators in Australia...

1. Billions of dollars of revenue is lost, if we compare to America for some statistics online gambling went into 20 billion dollars last year, whilst in Australia taken from the ABS it was just 141 million, imagine the things the Australian government can do if some of these Billions of dollars or revenue were taxed legally
2. Rouge operators just like the gangsters in the times of prohibition would come into effect, and do you really want these people running business' that go into the billions? The government needs to step in and legalise it so it can be regulated (which i will later discuss the benefits)
3. The recreational past times of many Australians will be put at risk, put for example what about the elderly who don't have the energy to go to a card room or a gambling establishment, and it is their sole joy to play poker, you take this away from them... not only that you take away the very enjoyable past-time for many young Australians such as myself, if we look to America... look at what happened young Americans who were professional poker players were forced to move to places like mexico to play a game that they love
4. Australians (who are legally allowed to gamble online... however because IGA 2001 makes it illegal for operators... it ultimately makes it illegal for Australian citizens)... how can this law exist... when it creates this double edged sword... how can a law in Australia permit Australians to gamble LEGALLY ONLINE... yet... another states that it is illegal for gambling operators to provide services to Australians be logical
5. No legalisation, means no government control of cowboy sites, legislation not allows you... once you have identified a gambling site... to either tax it, or make it adhere to your legislation of AGE CONTROL... AND PROBLEM GAMBLERS CONTROL

How do we solve the economic crisis and economic problems of Australia?

Answer - a very easy way is to legalise and tax online poker and gambling

Your arguments would be;

>Gambling creates a bad community atmosphere because of problem gamblers... who after losing would result to crime

Answer -

Will making online gambling illegal deter these people no... reverse the way you are thinking

right now... the making online poker illegal does not help problem gamblers they will find other illegal means or just go and play at a casino... if online poker is legalised... with good restrictions such as whilst playing online if a player loses a certain amount of money a POP UP MESSAGE of "THIS IS HOW MUCH YOU HAVE LOSE \$XXX" Will be a much more better way to help these people.

Secondly... when problem gamblers are identified they should be put into a black list... which restricts their credit cards (think of all the way you can get money online that cannot be traced to someone without a Date of birth or their legal name) from playing at online sites

This is what is happening right now... the law makes it illegal for gambling operators to conduct business in Australia, but there will always be new "cowboys" to enter this market... because THE TRUTH IS... there is a DEMAND FOR ONLINE POKER, if you lived under a rock... you might now have realised that Hundreds of millions of people all around the world are playing poker, and it is still booming... if we learn anything from prohibition and economics... is where is there demand... there is always someone to supply it no matter the law

Online poker also attracts more recreational players than problem gamblers... who are using their disposable incomes, and offer stakes as low as 2cents per bet... compared to a brick and mortal casino (live casino) the minimum is \$60 or \$2 a bet...

>People love playing poker i myself... love the game, i think it is a game of skill and mental challenge much more complex than chess, i will tell you right now... the truth if you make poker sites illegal in Australia i will look everywhere for one that lets me play it.

By legalising online poker and gambling sites, you can set limits, you can prevent underage gambling, YOU CAN'T do this by NOT LEGALISING IT, something needs to come into effect, that when a player deposits money into the site, there is a 24 hour waiting period to check the holder of the card is at least 18 years of age, with help from banking institutions.

>Another argument that you might think of "what is to stop a 16 year old kid from picking up their parents credit card and using it"

Answer - what is to stop a kid from picking up for example, a gun and shooting another kid and committing murder, it is the exact same thing... we as a society cannot stop these bad things from happening... and is it of no fault of a gambling institution or a poker site to be held responsible for such bad things, however the person who is responsible is the parents of this 16 year 17 year old. And where they keep these personal effects such as credit cards, and passwords to them

Just because you see one tree grows a bad apple... doesn't mean you chop down the whole tree... when it is a life source for many other people

>What is to stop cheaters?

Answer - sites already have in place teams that monitor betting patterns, collusion patterns of players on their sites, when found they are banned from playing on the sites, and the players who were defrauded are paid back the amounts lost to those players

(Some) Online poker sites already have in place:

Depositing limits

Time limits (exclusion periods)

Teams that search for cheaters, colluders, bots

My suggestions are:

>Legalise ONLINE POKER (texas holdem poker not poker machines)

>Tax the revenue made from Australian players - helping with the possible future economic problems

>Put into effect laws that protect Australian consumers such as player funds must be put into a escrow account,

>Other laws that protect problem gamblers and underage gamblers such as; pop up messages of total loss', black listing KNOWN problem >gamblers, making sure online sites work with banks to verify AGE.

I will gladly answer any queries you have on this issue...

Please pass these facts onto fellow members, and please allow me play poker online for fun, i work 8 hours a day... when i come come i like to relax by playing some poker online at the 2cent tables... i use my disposable income and it lets me have fun

Thankyou for your time