

Inquiry into online gambling and its impacts on problem gamblers

My submission is in reference to online poker gambling.

I am 61 years old and have been a gambler ever since I can remember and I will probably continue to gamble until the day I die.

I used to play poker online until the government put a stop to that (Interactive Gambling Amendment Bill 2016). I then went to the casino to play poker. I found that I was **spending substantially more at the casino than online**. In effect the government's action to stop online poker has cost me more money.

My recommendation to minimise harm to problem gamblers is to allow online poker but introduce a daily deposit limit of \$10 which is much less than the \$1,000 daily limit at the casino.

This should be made mandatory for all Australian accounts at the service provider level.

This would provide the gambler a safer option at home as compared to the environment at the casino.

It may seem counterintuitive to introduce another gambling option for a problem gambler as beneficial to them but considering their losses will be capped while still in the safety of their home, it would be a much better alternative than venturing into other gambling establishments.