

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO PRE-COMMITMENT

**Western Suburbs Leagues Club Ashfield, trading as Wests Ashfield Leagues,
formally submits this document for the consideration of the
*JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO PRE-COMMITMENT***

Wests Ashfield Leagues believes this JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO PRE-COMMITMENT should be totally independent not made up of any individuals or party members who have predetermined points of view.

Interested individuals, organizations or political parties should make submissions to the committee and allow an objective review of the evidence.

Submission:

- Wests Ashfield Leagues is supportive of a **trial** PRE-COMMITMENT option so long as it is:
 - Voluntary
 - The player can set his or her own limit
 - Limited to a 24 period.
- Considerable evidence is available from independent authorities that question the value of the PRE-COMMITMENT option. To compel a venue to spend considerable sums on their respective installations on this evidence is ludicrous. A lengthy and comprehensive study in to pre commitment by Schottler Consulting Pty Ltd has been carried out and indicates very limited benefit to curb problem gambling but at **a substantial set up cost to the venue.**
- We need a study focused on the detection and treatment of compulsive behaviour, so that we can identify early warning signs and triggers, enabling family, friends, teachers, work colleagues, hospitality staff and the like to identify and intervene as early as possible. This type of focus could well assist in the treatment alcohol, drug, credit card abuse and many other forms of compulsive behaviour.

In our opinion

- Should the Federal Government adopt an approach to dealing with problem gambling as part of the social phenomenon associated with compulsive behaviour we believe valuable resources could be better spent and achieve far reaching benefits for the community!

- Negative prohibitionist legislation only ever hurts honest law abiding members of the community. Until a person suffering an addiction faces up to their problem, no amount of legislation will stop them going about whatever it takes to feed their habit.
- A PRE-COMMITMENT option will send the wrong message to a problem gambler by indicating it is OK to spend \$X when a problem gambler **should not be gambling!!!!**
- Harm-minimisation measures introduced over the last 10 years with in the NSW Club industry has lead the way in reducing problem gambling. This template should be enhanced and introduced nationwide to bring some uniformity to the matter.
- A peak body to deal with these matters would be a great step in the right direction!

As Australians we cherish our individual freedoms and our right to choose our own path.

This latest push by the social engineers, the vocal minority, is another attempt to erode our freedoms and right to choose. We deserve to be treated a little bit better than untrustworthy, unreliable and recalcitrant adolescents!!!!

We respectfully request an opportunity to address this committee on these issues!

**The Board and Management
West's Ashfield Leagues**