

To the Senate Committee into online poker sites

Hi , I am a 64 year old male living in a country town and wish to submit my views on why online poker sites in Australia should not be banned.

I regularly play on a online poker site and enjoy the relaxation and mental stimulation that this pastime provides me.

I play about 4 to 5 times a week whilst other members of my family enjoy watching television which i find has deteriorated into mind numbing and senseless reality shows which I find both frustrating and boring

My investment in this site has been less than \$200 per annum in the last five years and as i don't play poker machines , bet on racing at the TAB or punt on the lotteries (which are all legal forms of gambling) I feel that this form of gambling should be left open for me to participate in

Not only does one have to use a percentage of skill to play poker (unlike lotto or poker machines) , I also get the opportunity to converse with other players from all over the world, and whilst i admit they are not long term friendships at least the conversations are somewhat stimulating as against other forms of gambling

I realise we have an obligation to help those people that have a gambling problem but I don't see why it should be at the expense of people that enjoy their recreational activity of online poker and using money that they have already paid tax on.

I am no longer able to be competitive in the sports and activities that I use to be involved in and find this form of gambling allows me to be mentally active and stimulated in a group activity

Please consider the not addicted players before making your decision. I'm sure we should have some say in this matter

Yours sincerely

Tim Head