

26 AUG 2011



Northern
Territory
Government

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Licensing, Regulation and Alcohol Strategy

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Your Ref: NTO-N/HW
Our Ref: D11/1317-LR

Senator Nick Xenophon
Independent Senator for South Australia
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Xenophon

RE: Sportsbet commissions and free bets.

I refer to your letter of 12 August 2011, addressed to the Chairman of the Northern Territory Licensing Commission, in relation to comments made at the hearing of the Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform.

I advise that the Northern Territory Racing Commission is responsible for the licensing and regulation of the Territory's sports bookmakers pursuant to the *Racing and Betting Act*. The Commission accepts and investigates complaints in relation to the sports bookmakers.

The Commission is also acutely aware of the issues of problem gambling and has implemented policies of harm minimisation including a mandatory Code of Practice for Responsible Gambling.

I have undertaken initial inquiries as a matter of some urgency but find no evidence of the allegations which warrant further investigation. However, if you are able to provide the Commission with actual verifiable evidence, further investigation will be undertaken.

You advise that "many other states and territories in Australia have specific legislation" but you fail to provide details of relevant acts or sections of relevance.

Therefore, I am unable to properly assess the allegations. Further, I would be interested in receiving a copy of Associate Professor Frank Zumbo's advice to enable a proper understanding of his opinion.

If you have concerns in relation to consumer laws, it is more appropriate that those concerns be directed to the respective consumer regulators.

The Commission will monitor the outcomes of any such referrals and take appropriate action, in need.

I note the Terms of Reference for the Joint Select Committee include:

- the development of new technologies, including mobile phones and interactive television, that increase the risk and incidence of problem gambling;
- the relative regulatory frameworks of online and non-online gambling, and
- inducements to bet on sporting events online.

The Commission awaits the outcome of the Committee's report with great interest.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular redaction box covers the signature of Micheil Brodie.

MICHEIL BRODIE
Executive Director

18 August 2011