

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2012-13 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** 3

**Question No:** 104

**Topic:** Problem Gambling

**Hansard Page:** 14/02/2013 CA42

**Senator Cash** asked:

Can you provide details of the engagement with industry bodies and expert advisors during the development of the pre-commitment legislation?

**Answer:**

The Department has had regular contact with key industry groups and sought expert advice in developing the national gambling reform legislation (the legislation). From mid to late 2010, the Government engaged closely with industry groups, experts and other stakeholders on legislative measures to tackle problem gambling, including through the Ministerial Expert Advisory Group and COAG Select Council on Gambling Reform. These consultations continued for 18 months.

On 17 February 2012, the Government released an exposure draft of the legislation for public comment. In February and March 2012, the Government delivered formal presentations to, and held workshops with, key stakeholders on the exposure draft legislation. The Government also continued to informally engage stakeholders on specific issues relating to the legislation. All the views expressed were used to improve the workability and enhance the operation of the draft legislation.

On 1 November 2012 the legislation was introduced into Parliament and referred to the Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform for inquiry. In conducting its inquiry, the Committee sought written submissions from the public and evidence from key industry groups and academics. The findings and recommendations from the Committee were considered by Government and adopted where appropriate by amending the legislation. The amended legislation was passed on 29 November 2012.

Throughout various stages of developing the legislation we also sought expert legal advice from the Australian Government Solicitor.