

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2017-18 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 2.1 Families and Communities

Question No: SQ17-000412

Topic: National Collaborative Gambling Research model

Hansard page: 65

Senator Larissa Waters asked:

Can you take on notice to provide any more detail that you have at this time, noting that 1 July is not very far off and that we are interested in the ability of researchers in the field to set the research agenda as opposed to being told by government and/or industry what the agenda is?

Answer:

On 27 April 2017 the Commonwealth, state and territory gambling ministers met and agreed to continue collaboration on national gambling research through a new three year partnership agreement. This agreement will commence in 2017-18 with governments committing funding of up to \$3 million over three years.

The Commonwealth's contribution is \$1.35 million over three years with \$0.350 million in 2017-18. State and territory governments have agreed to match the Commonwealth's contribution through a co-contribution commensurate with their proportion of national gambling expenditure.

The Gambling Research Australia (GRA) Governance Committee has been established. Membership of the committee will consist of Commonwealth, state and territory government senior officials. Mr Tristan Reed, Branch Manager, Welfare Quarantining and Gambling Branch, Department of Social Services, will be the Commonwealth's representative. The representative from Liquor and Gaming New South Wales (NSW) is the chair. NSW is also providing secretariat support. The Governance Committee may invite recognised experts in gambling research as advisors on particular research projects. Experts would make technical contributions to committee deliberations on commissioning of research, but would not take part in the decision making process.

The GRA Governance Committee is expected to meet in July 2017 to finalise the agreement, develop its terms of reference, establish a framework for decision-making for the procurement of research and discuss the research priorities to help form the research agenda.

As noted by the ministers at the 27 April 2017 meeting, the research agenda will encompass issues of national significance and focus on the needs of governments.