

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates 2016-17

Communications Portfolio

Australian Communications and Media Authority

Question No: 157

Australian Communications and Media Authority

Hansard Ref: Page 23, 25/05/2017

Topic: Interactive Gambling Act – On-course bookmakers

Senator Kakoschke-Moore, Skye asked:

Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: It seems as well that the sports betting companies have cottoned on to the delay and are in fact using social media in order to promote 'click to call' betting while they still can. That takes me to the next point, Minister, which may be where some of the concerns around the non-government amendment come into effect, and that is the impact of the amendment, the purpose of which was to ban credit betting. It has been put to me that there are some concerns that this may somehow tie up on-course bookmakers. Can somebody from the ACMA explain to me how the Interactive Gambling Act applies to on-course bookmakers?

Ms McNeill: For the detail, I am probably best off taking it on notice, but, in short, there are a series of carve-outs and exemptions under the interactive gambling legislation so that some sorts of betting services are not caught up. Telephone betting is one. Oncourse betting is another. So, at the moment, it is simply an exempt class of betting service. But, if you are talking about the bill, I think I would be best taking that on notice.

Answer:

Senator Kakoschke-Moore will be offered a briefing on the Senate amendment and its potential effects on on-course bookmakers in the context of crossbench briefing for the Interactive Gambling Amendment Bill 2016 prior to its return to the Senate.