

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2016**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Australian Communications and Media Authority**

**Question No: 75**

**Australian Communications and Media Authority**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 25/10/2016**

**Topic: Interactive Gambling Act**

**Senator Kakoschke-Moore, Skye asked:**

The Government has indicated it will soon introduce a bill to amend the Interactive Gambling Act 2001.

1. How many meetings did ACMA have with the Government in relation to amending the Interactive Gambling Act 2001?
2. Did ACMA provide the Government with advice in relation to specific sections of the Interactive Gambling Act 2001 which, in ACMA's experience, needed to be amended? If so, what sections of the Act did ACMA bring to the Government's attention?

**Answer:**

1. Staff from the ACMA had two meetings by telephone with staff from the Department of Communications and the Arts and the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel to discuss the proposed amendments to the *Interactive Gambling Act 2001* (IGA).  
Additionally, ACMA staff provided written comments to the Department of Communications and the Arts in advance of and throughout the drafting process.
2. In their dealings with staff from the Department of Communications and the Arts, ACMA staff suggested a range of drafting and other improvements. In particular, they recommended that consideration be given to amending the IGA to clarify:
  - (a) the intended operation of the 'telephone betting service' exemption (sections 4 and 5)
  - (b) the intended meaning of a 'sporting event', especially in the context of multi-day events (section 8A)
  - (c) the intended treatment of self-service betting terminals provided in retail outlets (not expressly dealt with in the IGA).

The ACMA also suggested that consideration be given to the ongoing utility of section 24(1)(b) of Division 3 of the IGA.