

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

23 – 24 February 2011

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AET 12

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Gambling reform and pre-commitment

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Written

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If problem gamblers can act rationally away from the venues, when they are meant to set their pre-committed limits, what drives them to go to the venues in the first place?

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Problem gamblers periodically face difficulties controlling their impulse to gamble, and these impulses can occur in many situations, including outside venues. When their impulse to gamble is high, they are unable to control that impulse, they have the money and poker machine gambling options are easily accessible, people will gamble on EGMs. Venues with EGMs are pervasive in society, being present in local pubs, hotels and clubs. These are central and easily accessible locations for many people in terms of socialising, restaurant dining, consuming alcohol or attending concerts.

Accordingly, it is quite understandable that people with gambling problems will go to venues repeatedly.

