

## Senate Standing Committee on Economics

### ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

23 – 24 February 2011

Question No: AET 14

Topic: Gambling reform and pre-commitment

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Cash asked: What would happen if a mandatory pre-commitment system was in operation and a player reached their limit? what form of intervention would be required? Would the player need to be excluded from the venue? Would an enforced break be required? Could the player continue gambling if they choose to?

Answer:

In pre-commitment, players set the amount of money they wish to spend for a set period of time. For instance, a person may elect a limit of \$2000 for the next three months. If this person spends a total of \$2000 in less time than that period, he or she would no longer be able to play the machines until their selected pre-commitment period was over (three months in this case). A gambler could not continue to gamble if they wanted to, because they have pre-committed at an earlier time not to do so. In effect, they have written a contract with themselves that they cannot breach.

Because pre-commitment is achieved through technological means (i.e. the machine would not accept further money), there would not have to be any other intervention unless the patron sought one. The person would be able to stay in the venue and participate in other non-EGM activities. However, the person could be prompted by this experience to seek counselling assistance.

