

## Senate Standing Committee on Economics

### ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

23 – 24 February 2011

Question No: AET 4  
Topic: Gambling reform and pre-commitment  
Hansard Page: Written

Senator Cash asked: Does the Commission believe the problem gambling prevalence rate can ever reach zero in Australia? What rate does the Commission believe is achievable?

Answer:

A significant reduction in the prevalence of problem gambling, and more particularly, harm, is a practical and desirable goal. Under good regulatory arrangements, harm reduction would be achieved in three ways:

- ¶ The prevalence of problem gambling in the EGM area would be reduced
- ¶ The presence of harm experienced by problem gamblers would be reduced, even if their clinical diagnosis is unchanged (as in many other harm minimisation policy areas)
- ¶ The presence of harm to non-problem gamblers would also be reduced.

The Commission sees pre-commitment as having a role in all three. That said, as the Commission pointed out in its inquiry report, pre-commitment is not a 'silver bullet', but would be a 'strong, practicable and ultimately cost-effective option for harm minimisation' (page 10.44).