



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

## COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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### **Poker Machine Harm Minimisation Bill 2008**

On 25 June 2008 the Senate, on the recommendation of the Selection of Bills Committee, referred the Poker Machine Harm Minimisation Bill 2008 to the Community Affairs Committee. The inquiry into this Bill has been combined with the previously referred Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax (Administration) Bill 2008. The reporting date is 10 November 2008.

Reasons provided for referral of the Bill and the principal issues for consideration are:

Research into gambling shows that targeted changes can cut rates of excessive gambling and that cutting rates of excessive gambling is a very important part of addressing problem gambling and allowing people to play the pokies with reduced harm.

Family First's Bill sets out a number of harm minimisation measures such as limiting cash bets on poker machines to \$1 a spin, payout prizes to a maximum of \$1,000, limiting ATM withdrawals at gambling venues to \$100 a day and introducing smart cards with a \$1000 fortnightly limit for those who want to play more powerful machines up to \$5 a spin.

The Bill and second reading speech may be accessed via the link: [Legislation and documentation relating to the Bill](#)

The Committee invites you to provide a written submission addressing issues that may be of relevance to you. The submission should be lodged by 8 August 2008. The Committee prefers to receive submissions electronically as an attached document – email: [community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au) – otherwise by fax (02 6277 5829).

Submissions become Committee documents and are made public only after a decision by the Committee. Publication of submissions includes loading them onto the internet and their being available to other interested parties including the media. Persons making submissions must not release them without the approval of the Committee. Submissions are covered by parliamentary privilege but the unauthorised release of them is not protected.

Information relating to Senate Committee inquiries, including notes to assist in the preparation of submissions for a Committee, can be located on the Internet at [http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/wit\\_sub/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/wit_sub/index.htm)

Should you require further information please contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 3515.