

# Final report of the Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform

## Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax (Administration) Bill 2008

### Background

1.1 On 14 February 2008, the Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax (Administration) Bill 2008 was introduced into the Senate by Senator Fielding. On 12 March 2008, on the recommendation of the Senate Selection of Bills Committee, the Senate referred the bill to the Senate Community Affairs Committee for report.<sup>1</sup>

### Previous inquiry

1.2 The Senate Community Affairs Committee agreed that due to the overlapping subject matter, a single inquiry would be held on three bills referred to it: the Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax (Administration) Bill 2008; the Poker Machine Harm Minimisation Bill 2008; and the ATMs and Cash Facilities in Licensed Venues Bill 2008. A report on the three bills was tabled on 10 November 2008.<sup>2</sup>

1.3 The committee received 75 submissions covering all three bills and conducted four public hearings. The committee also conducted a site visit to the offices of IGT Australia at Rosebery in Sydney. In its report, the committee concluded that passage of the three bills not be recommended at that time as the Productivity Commission inquiry into gambling had not yet been completed.<sup>3</sup>

### Referral

1.4 On 30 September 2010 the bill was restored to the notice paper.<sup>4</sup> Following the establishment of the Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform, on 28 October 2010 the Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax (Administration) Bill 2008 [2010] (the

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1 *Journals of the Senate*, 12 March 2008, p. 205.

2 Senate Community Affairs Committee, *Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax (Administration) Bill 2008, Poker Machine Harm Minimisation Bill 2008 and ATMs and Cash Facilities in Licensed Venues Bill 2008*, 10 November 2008.

3 Senate Community Affairs Committee, *Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax (Administration) Bill 2008, Poker Machine Harm Minimisation Bill 2008 and ATMs and Cash Facilities in Licensed Venues Bill 2008*, 10 November 2008, p. 24.

4 *Journals of the Senate*, 30 September 2010, p. 116.

bill) was referred to the committee for inquiry and report in line with the committee's terms of reference.<sup>5</sup>

### **The bill**

1.5 The bill provides for the administration of a poker machine harm reduction tax to be payable by a licensed operator on revenue derived from licensed poker machines. It establishes the Poker Machine Harm Reduction Transition Fund to fund community activities, prevention and rehabilitation programs as well as educational programs highlighting the risk of gambling. The bill is intended to administer a future Poker Machine Harm Reduction Act 2008 which would impose a gradually increasing tax rate on the revenues which licensed operators obtain from poker machines.

### **Discharging the inquiry**

1.6 The committee has decided to discharge this inquiry given the previous inquiry conducted by the Senate Community Affairs Committee and the bill's dependence on further legislation<sup>6</sup> which has not been introduced.

### **Recommendation 1**

**1.7 The committee recommends that this inquiry not be proceeded with and be discharged from the notice paper.**

**Mr Andrew Wilkie MP**

**Chair**

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5 *Journals of the Senate*, 28 October 2010, p. 240.

6 See Senate Community Affairs Committee, *Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax (Administration) Bill 2008, Poker Machine Harm Minimisation Bill 2008 and ATMs and Cash Facilities in Licensed Venues Bill 2008*, 10 November 2008, p. 15.