

From: Wendy S <tigerindus@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 November 2016 9:28 AM
To: fgm
Subject: Wendy Spackman: Gambling Reform

Attention: Joint Select Committee on Future Gambling Markets

As a rate payer in both the Brighton and Glenorchy Tas. council regions as well as Moreton Bay, Qld, I am gravely concerned that very little has been done to curb gambling in Tasmania and nationally in Australia. It is totally bad economics to have the general population put at risk to addiction on a night out to a club, pub or casino. Poker machines in particular can eat away a person's income severely leaving little if any money left to pay bills including rent or rates, buy groceries for the week let alone be a significant part of the economy to contributing to the retail industry. Clubs have taken advantage of their customers for many, many years. Gambling profits have been used to perpetuate the folly. Governments have been loathe to put an end to this extreme lucrative income stream.

Since immigrating to Australia in the late 1960's, my family were astounded at the amount of pokies everywhere in Australia. I had never seen gambling in the UK where I was born and raised except rolling a penny at a fairground. Why was it happening at such an incredible rate in Australia? Money, money and more money thrown away. Who can say what amount they are prepared to lose when they first start putting coins into a machine? Who amongst us beats the computerised machines? None. Personally I would like to see a complete ban on gambling in Australia. I suggest this be done as soon as possible and if needs must to do it in a gradual manner across all States. Maybe it would be a smart thing for Tasmania to model first to other States on how to do this. After all Tasmania had Australia's first casino. Take a leadership position. No more piecemeal legislation. Who is willing to do this? The people don't wish to lose any more money. I know of no one consistently winning. Only people constantly losing and going back again and again to try to win big or get back what they have already lost. Adults need to have some other form of entertainment and relaxation. How relaxing is going home depressed after taking out a CASH ADVANCE to get back a huge loss. PLEASE DO SOMETHING. DO ANYTHING. TAKE POSITIVE ACTION AGAINST GAMBLING. DO IT FOR YOUR CONSTITUENTS. WHO ALREADY LIVE FROM PAY TO PAY OR ARE ON CENTRELINK PAYMENTS. Australia's economy cannot be continually dependent on impoverishing its citizens.

Yours sincerely, W Spackman
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