

**Julie Thompson**

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**From:** Mac Hoban <campaigns@good.do>  
**Sent:** Saturday, 5 November 2016 11:50 AM  
**To:** fgm  
**Subject:** Submission to the Joint Select Committee on Future Gaming Markets

Dear Members of the Committee,

Gambling does terrible damage in the community. This is well known. Also well known is that children and dependent adults are often the ones who suffer, through no fault of their own.

Where is the benefit to balance against this widespread social harm? There is none. Gambling has absolutely no constructive element, it is socially barren activity.

Any secondary benefit such as job creation is illusory. Gambling concentrates wealth among the wealthy, at the expense of the less well-off. Poor and working-class people spend all their money and create employment with every pay-packet. The rich can afford to sit on their wealth, and they do.

It is a nonsense to claim that gambling creates jobs, the opportunity costs are far greater than the secondary benefits.

Likewise with taxes. The taxes raised through gambling are more than offset by government expenditure picking up the pieces of gambling broken families. The "benefits" of gambling are illusory for government, just as they are for the punter.

In a free society people should be free to waste their money as they wish. But government should discourage such stupidity not facilitate it. Gambling should be restricted and regulated, it should not be marketed in local community venues.

Yours sincerely, Mac Hoban

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