

PROBLEM GAMBLING TASKFORCE – GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

OUTCOME NUMBER 3- Community Capability and the Vulnerable

POSSIBLE QUESTION: Could you describe the groups that have been established to advise on the government's gambling reforms?

<p>KEY POINTS / HOT ISSUES</p>	<p>The following groups are providing advice and reports to Government to help form the national response to the recommendations of the Productivity Commission (PC) Report on Gambling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Select Council on Gambling Reform – time-limited council that is developing a national response to the findings and recommendations of the PC Report. The Select Council reports to COAG. – Senior Officials Working Group – supports the COAG Select Council on Gambling Reform. – Ministerial Expert Advisory Group on Gambling (MEAG) – established by the Government, MEAG has 22 members from industry, the community sector and academia. MEAG is providing specialist and technical advice to Government. – Commonwealth Steering Committee – a Commonwealth cross-departmental committee that provides input into the Commonwealth's position and options for implementation. <p>There is also a Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform (JSC) – chaired by Mr Wilkie. The JSC's first inquiry into pre-commitment is expected to report by April 2011. The JSC will undertake a series of inquiries until 2013.</p> <p><i>A diagram showing the Governance arrangements is at Attachment A.</i></p>
<p>ORIGIN</p>	<p>In July 2009, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) called on the Productivity Commission to update its 1999 Australia's Gambling Industries Inquiry Report with a particular focus on assessing the effectiveness of these harm minimisation measures in addressing problem gambling.</p> <p>An initial Government response to the Productivity Commission report was released on 23 June 2010.</p> <p>In its response, the Government signalled its support for the use of pre-commitment technology to tackle problem gambling and its commitment to working with states and territories, and industry, in implementing reforms.</p>

2010-11 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS FEBRUARY 2011

	<u>Establishment</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 8 July 2010 – Select Council on Gambling Reform – 21 September 2010 – the Ministerial Expert Advisory Group on Gambling – 29 September 2010 – A resolution to establish the Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform was put to the Parliament and agreed on – October 2010 – Commonwealth Steering Committee established.
FUNDING	<p>In 2010-11, the Problem Gambling Taskforce's administered funding is \$2.758 million.</p> <p>In 2011-12, the Problem Gambling Taskforce's administered funding is \$1.596 million.</p>
IMPACT	<p>Advice and information from these groups will help shape the policy development and implementation process.</p> <p>The Select Council met for the first time in October 2010 and is scheduled to meet again on 25 February in Canberra.</p> <p>The Ministerial Expert Advisory Group has met three times: in November 2010, December 2010 and February 2011.</p>
STAKEHOLDER/ MEMBERSHIP	<p>Details of membership for each group are included at Attachment B.</p>
KEY DOCUMENTS	<p>Attachment C – COAG Select Council on Gambling Reform Communiqué</p> <p>Attachment D – Media releases</p>

TALKING POINTS

- A number of groups and committees are providing advice and reports to Government to help form the national response to the recommendations of the Productivity Commission (PC) Report on Gambling.
- The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Select Council on Gambling Reform is a time-limited council that is developing a national response to the findings and recommendations of the PC Report. The Select Council reports to COAG. The Select Council met for the first time on Friday 22 October 2010 and is scheduled to meet again on 25 February 2011.
- A Senior Officials Working Group is supporting the work of the COAG Select Council on Gambling Reform.
- A Ministerial Expert Advisory Group on Gambling has been established, with 21 members from industry, the community sector and academia providing specialist and technical advice to Government to assist in delivering the national gambling reforms, including a full pre-commitment scheme on poker machines. The Advisory Group, chaired by Professor Peter Shergold AC, has met three times, in November and December 2010, and 7 February 2011 in Sydney.
- A cross-departmental Commonwealth Steering Committee is facilitating the development of a whole of Commonwealth position and assisting with advice on options for implementation.
- There is also a Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform (JSC) chaired by Mr Wilkie. The JSC's first inquiry into pre-commitment is expected to report by April 2011. The JSC will undertake a series of inquiries until 2013.

BACKGROUND**COAG Select Council on Gambling Reform**

- The COAG Select Council on Gambling Reform has been established to develop a national response to the findings and recommendations of the Productivity Commission Report on Gambling. The Select Council will report to COAG.
- Membership of the Select Council includes Australian, State and Territory Treasurers and/or Ministers with responsibility for gambling regulation or Treasury portfolios and community and human services portfolios. There are up to two representatives from each jurisdiction.
- The COAG Select Council on Gambling Reform is co-chaired by the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon Jenny Macklin MP, and the Assistant Treasurer, the Hon Bill Shorten MP.

Senior Officials Working Group

- The Senior Officials Working Group (SOWG) supports the COAG Select Council on Gambling Reform. It is a process body to work through issues and support the workings of the Select Council.
- Membership of the SOWG includes up to three high level officials from each jurisdiction.
- The SOWG is chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.
- The SOWG is in turn supported by a Policy Working Group, which has been established to consider options and draft reports for the COAG Select Council on pre-commitment, dynamic warning and cost of play displays, ATM daily withdrawal limits, and other issues as required.
- Membership of the Policy Working Group includes Commonwealth, State and Territory Government officials with responsibility for gambling regulation or Treasury portfolios and community and human services portfolios. New Zealand has been invited as an observer on the Policy Working Group.
- The Policy Working Group is co-chaired by the Commonwealth and Queensland.

Ministerial Expert Advisory Group on Gambling

- The Ministerial Expert Advisory Group will provide specialist and technical advice to the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and the Assistant Treasurer on the implementation of gambling reforms to help inform the Commonwealth's position.
- The Advisory Group is chaired by Professor Peter Shergold AC and includes 21 representatives from key stakeholder groups: clubs, hotels and casinos; organisations that provide problem gambling counselling and support services; industry; and researchers and academics who specialise in understanding problem gambling behaviour and harm minimisation measures.

Commonwealth Steering Committee on Problem Gambling

- The Commonwealth Steering Committee on Problem Gambling will facilitate development of a whole of Commonwealth position and assist in providing advice to the Commonwealth.
- Membership of the Steering Committee includes representatives at the Secretary or Deputy Secretary level from key Commonwealth department stakeholders.
- The Steering Committee is chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

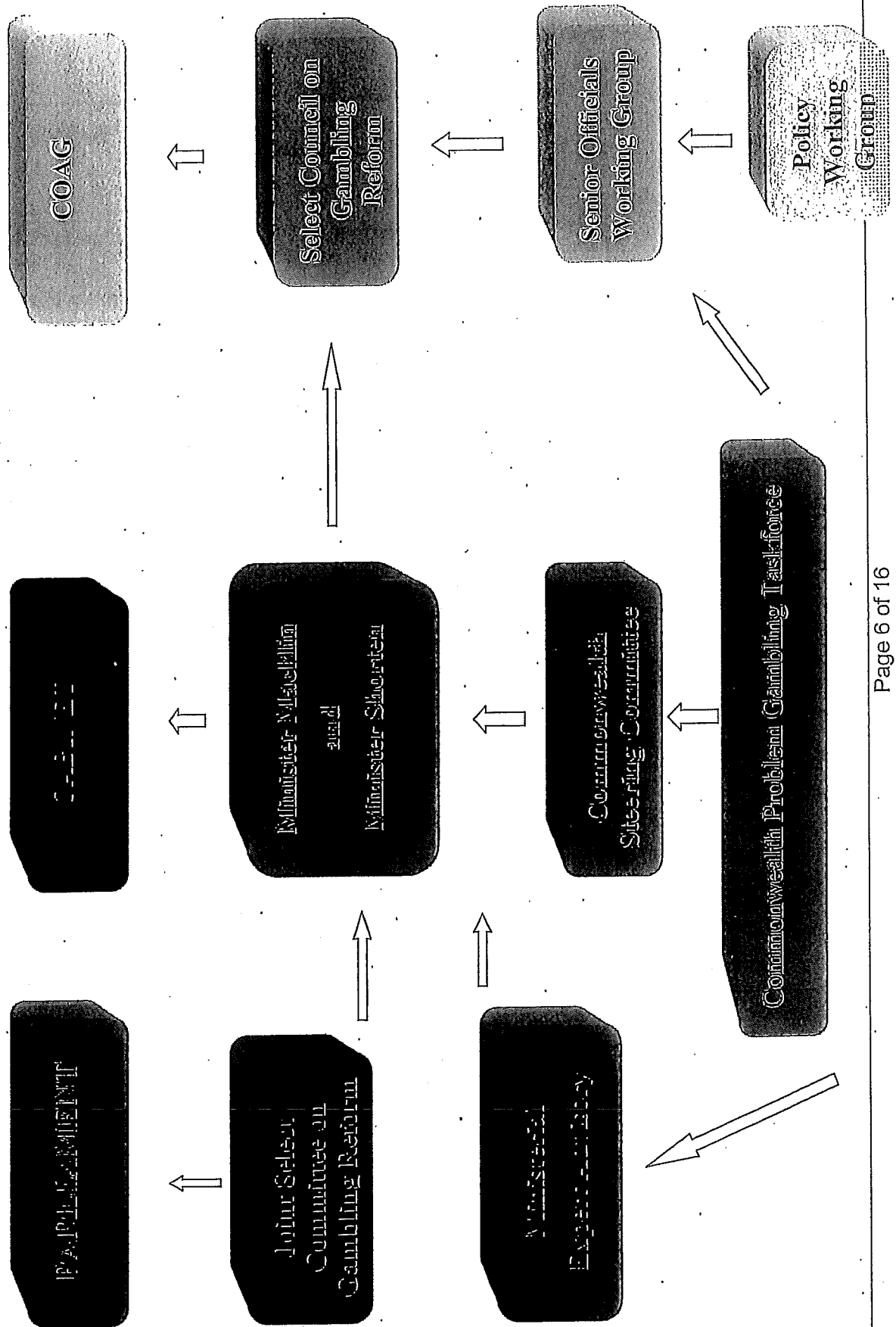
Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform.

- The Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform (JSC) was established to inquire into and report on a national response to the full set of recommendations Productivity Commission report on gambling and a number of related matters.
- The JSC is chaired by Mr Andrew Wilkie and the Deputy Chair is Mr Nick Champion, the ALP member for Wakefield in South Australia.
- The JSC is currently conducting an inquiry into pre-commitment and is expected to table its report by April 2011.
- The committee will then conduct further inquiries and is expected to report twice each year – in April and October – until its end date of 2013.

Background information is provided on each of the committees in a backpocket brief, providing further details including Terms of Reference and membership.

	Action Officer:	Group Manager
Name:	Robyn Oswald	Caroline Edwards
Position:	Branch Manager	Group Manager
Branch/Group:	Problem Gambling Taskforce	Problem Gambling Taskforce
Work phone number:	02 6244 1357	02 6244 6577
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Cleared by Group Manager	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Date: <input type="text"/>
		GM Initial <input type="text"/>

PROBLEM GAMBLING GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS



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Attachment B

GROUPS' MEMBERSHIP

COAG Select Council on Gambling Reform

Members

COMMONWEALTH (Co-Chairs)	The Hon Jenny Macklin MP , Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs The Hon Bill Shorten MP , Assistant Treasurer
NSW	The Hon Eric Roozendaal MLC , Treasurer, Special Minister of State The Hon Kevin Greene MP , Minister for Gaming and Racing
VIC	The Hon Michael O'Brien MP , Minister for Gaming The Hon Kim Wells MP , Treasurer
QLD	The Hon Peter Lawlor MP , Minister for Tourism and Fair Trading The Hon Karen Struthers MP , Minister for Community Services and Housing
SA	The Hon Jack Snelling MP , Treasurer The Hon Bernard Finnigan MLC , Minister for Gambling
TAS	The Hon Lara Giddings MP , Premier The Hon Cassy O'Connor MP , Minister for Human Services, Minister for Community Development
NT	The Hon Delia Lawrie MLA , Treasurer, Minister for Racing, Gambling and Licensing The Hon Konstantine Vatskalis MLA , Minister for Children and Families
ACT	Mr Andrew Barr MLA , Minister for Gaming and Racing Ms Joy Burch MLA , Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

2010-11 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS FEBRUARY 2011

Ministerial Expert Advisory Group on Gambling***Members***

Chair: Professor Peter Shergold AC, Macquarie Group Foundation Professor, CEO, Centre for Social Impact, University of NSW.

- Ms Cheryl Vardon, Australasian Gaming Council
- Mr Anthony Ball, Clubs Australia
- Mr John Whelan, Australian Hotels Association
- Mr Chris Downy, Australasian Casino Association
- Mr Ross Ferrar, Gaming Technologies Association
- Mr Rohan Martin, ATM Industry Reference Group
- Mr John Duffy, International Game Technology
- Mr John Bresnan, Crown Limited
- Mr David Curry, Australian Leisure and Hospitality Group
- Mr Simon Schrapel, ACOSS and UnitingCare Wesley, Adelaide
- Dr Mark Zirnsak, Victorian InterChurch Gambling Taskforce
- Major Brad Halse, Salvation Army Southern Territory
- Ms Rosemary Hambledon, Relationships Australia South Australia
- Mr Barry Sheehan, Centacare Toowoomba
- Ms Kate Roberts, Gambling Impact Society (NSW)
- Ms Louise Tarrant, Liquor Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union
- Dr Paul Delfabbro, Associate Professor in Psychology, University of Adelaide
- Professor Nerilee Hing, Director, Centre for Gambling Education and Research, Southern Cross University
- Professor Alex Blaszczyński, Chair in Psychology, University of Sydney
- Mr Ashley Gordon, Centre for Gambling Education and Research, Southern Cross University
- Dr Charles Livingstone, Deputy Head, Department of Health Social Science, Monash University

Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform***Members***

- Mr Wilkie (*Chair*)
- Mr Champlon (*Deputy Chair*)
- Senators Back, Bilyk, Crossin and Xenophon
- Mr S.P. Jones
- Mr Neumann
- Mr Frydenberg
- Mr Clobo

Participating members

Senator Abetz, Adams, Barnett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bushby, Cash, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Eggleston, Ferguson, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Fisher, Heffernan, Humphries, Johnston, Joyce, Kroger, Macdonald, McGauran, Mason, Minchin, Nash, Parry, Payne, Ronaldson, Ryan, Scullion, Troeth, Trood and Williams.

Attachment C

**Council of Australian Governments Select Council on
Gambling Reform****Communiqué****Melbourne**

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Select Council on Gambling Reform held its first meeting in Melbourne today.

This is the first time that Treasurers, Ministers responsible for gambling regulation, and Ministers responsible for community services, have come together to discuss the Productivity Commission Report on Gambling and consider options to minimise harm from problem gambling.

Today, the Co-Chairs of the Select Council, the Federal Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin, and the Federal Assistant Treasurer, Bill Shorten, led discussion on the next steps for developing a national response to the Productivity Commission report.

The Select Council agreed to establish working groups to develop options for a national pre-commitment strategy, ATM withdrawal limits, dynamic warning displays and a range of other issues.

The Select Council acknowledged that gambling is a legitimate industry and that many Australians enjoy recreational gambling. The gambling industry makes a significant economic and social contribution to Australia.

Pre-commitment

Ministers noted the 2010 Productivity Commission's findings that electronic gaming machines (poker machines) were the primary cause of problem gambling in Australia.

Ministers also noted the Productivity Commission's recommendations on a full pre-commitment scheme, and noted the significant steps already undertaken in Queensland, South Australia and Victoria towards pre-commitment. Ministers agreed to build on this work, and the evidence-based approach that has been taken to date.

Ministers agreed to establish a working group to progress work on pre-commitment, including options for features and functionality of a scheme, consideration of implementation issues including technology, timing and phasing, and impacts on industry and governments.

For the next meeting of the Select Council, the working group will provide advice on:

- initial design options and features of an evidence-based full pre-commitment scheme;
- initial options for achieving uniformity and consistency between jurisdictions; and
- the costs and benefits of various pre-commitment approaches, including for industry and governments.

2010-11 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS FEBRUARY 2011

Dynamic warning displays and cost of play displays

Ministers noted that all states and territories currently display warning material and cost of play information within gambling venues.

Ministers agreed that consumers should have access to accurate, easy to understand information about how much they spend and the cost of playing.

Ministers also noted that electronic dynamic warnings and cost of play displays have the potential to better target problem gamblers and change people's gambling behaviour.

Ministers agreed to establish a working group to develop options and timelines to progress dynamic warnings and play displays, including features and parameters under which these warnings could be delivered.

The Commonwealth also agreed to undertake additional research to establish the parameters under which dynamic warnings and cost of play displays could be delivered.

The Queensland Government noted that gaming machines in Queensland already have the capacity to deliver dynamic warnings and undertook to work with the Commonwealth to test dynamic warnings and cost of play displays in select venues across the state.

ATM withdrawal limits

Ministers agreed to task officials with developing a proposal for the implementation of a \$250 per day per card limit on ATM withdrawals in gambling venues (excluding casinos) for their consideration.

Victoria has legislated to prohibit ATMs in gaming venues from July 2012, and Tasmania does not have ATMs in hotels or clubs.

Ministers noted the importance of ensuring that tourist hubs, regional and rural areas with limited access to ATMs are not disadvantaged.

Forward work agenda

The Select Council agreed the forward work agenda also include:

- consideration of the impact of online betting on the racing industry;
- Indigenous gambling issues, including non-commercial gambling; and
- the regulation of online gambling.

Research

All Ministers highlighted the need for ongoing research and evaluation to supplement the existing evidence base on problem gambling, including Indigenous communities.

Ministers agreed to evaluate the impacts of a pre-commitment scheme and other measures on problem gambling.

2010-11 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS FEBRUARY 2011

Ministers noted that the Commonwealth is commissioning an independent study on the impacts of a reduction in problem gambling on revenue flows and individual spending behaviour.

Research will include modelling of the impact of any measures on the broad economy including on employment, the gaming and related industries, and state and territory government tax revenues. This will include analysis of regional impacts.

Ministers also agreed to commission research into the impact of advertising on gambling behaviours.

Ministers also noted that the Productivity Commission would conduct a thorough examination of the impact of the full pre-commitment scheme on problem gambling from 2014 and determine what further harm minimisation measures may be necessary.

Date: 22 October 2010

Media contact: Jessica Walker 547F personal privacy

Attachment D

Media Release

JENNY MACKLIN MPMinister for Families, Housing, Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs**BILL SHORTEN MP**

Assistant Treasurer

ANDREW WILKIE MP

Member for Denison

SENATOR NICK XENOPHON

Senator for South Australia

New committee to progress gambling reform

A new Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform was established by the Parliament today.

The committee was established to help progress the Gillard Government's gambling reforms, including the roll out of a full national pre-commitment scheme by 2014, as agreed between the Prime Minister and the Member for Denison, Andrew Wilkie.

The ten member parliamentary committee will examine and make recommendations about the Gillard Government's agreed gambling reforms, including the design and implementation of a best practice full pre-commitment scheme.

As agreed with Mr Wilkie, the committee's advice will inform any position that the Commonwealth will take to the Council of Australian Governments' Select Council on Gambling Reform.

The committee will also have a role in monitoring the impact of pre-commitment schemes, including advising on appropriate terms of reference for a future Productivity Commission Inquiry to assess this impact.

The membership arrangements agreed by Parliament for the committee include nominations from Government, Opposition and Independent and/or minor party representatives, in both houses.

It has been agreed that the chair of the committee will be a non-aligned member.

The committee will present its final report to Parliament no later than 30 June 2013.

The Gillard Government will consult widely with industry and community groups, and the states and territories over the next four years on the roll out of our gambling reforms.

We are also establishing a Ministerial Expert Advisory Group on Gambling, including representatives from gambling counselling and support services, clubs, hotels, casinos, gaming machine manufacturers, technical experts, researchers and academics.

2010-11 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS FEBRUARY 2011

The group will provide advice from their members and interested parties to the Government and the Joint Select Parliamentary Committee on Gambling on the implementation of the reforms.

The Productivity Commission estimates that there are between 80,000 and 160,000 problem gamblers. In addition there are between 230,000 and 350,000 people at moderate risk.

Problem gambling destroys lives - not only the life of the problem gambler but also the lives of their families and friends.

Our reforms will help limit the damaging effects of problem gambling, while continuing to let thousands of Australians enjoy recreational gambling in pubs and clubs.

Date: 30/09/2010

Media Release

JENNY MACKLIN MP

Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs

BILL SHORTEN MP

Assistant Treasurer

ANDREW WILKIE MP

Member for Denison

SENATOR NICK XENOPHON

Senator for South Australia

Tackling problem gambling

The Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin, the Assistant Treasurer, Bill Shorten, the Member for Denison, Andrew Wilkie, and Senator Nick Xenophon held discussions today to progress reform on problem gambling, including the implementation of pre-commitment technology for poker machines by 2014.

Ms Macklin, Mr Shorten, Mr Wilkie and Senator Xenophon committed to working in close partnership, and in consultation with state and territory governments, industry and the community sector to tackle problem gambling including implementing pre-commitment technology, ATM withdrawal limits in venues with poker machines (excluding casinos) and poker machine dynamic warning and cost of play displays.

The 2010 Productivity Commission Report into Gambling found that a pre-commitment scheme is a strong, practicable and ultimately cost-effective option to minimise harm caused by gambling.

As a first step, Ms Macklin, Mr Shorten, Mr Wilkie and Senator Xenophon announced the establishment of a Ministerial Expert Advisory Group on Gambling.

The group will provide advice from their members and interested parties to the Government and the Joint Select Parliamentary Committee on Gambling on the implementation of the reforms.

The Government has invited Professor Peter Shergold AM to Chair the Expert Advisory Group. Professor Shergold leads the Centre for Social Impact at the University of New South Wales and is a former Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The Gillard Government will consult closely with key interest groups on the membership of the Expert Advisory Group.

The Expert Advisory Group will include representatives from:

- organisations who provide problem gambling counselling and support services;
- technical experts, for example, gaming machine software specialists and ATM operators;
- clubs, hotels, casinos and gaming machine manufacturers; and

- researchers and academics who specialise in understanding problem gambling behaviour and harm minimisation measures.

Ms Macklin, Mr Shorten, Mr Wilkie and Senator Xenophon also discussed arrangements for the Parliamentary Joint Select Committee that was part of the agreement between the Prime Minister and Mr Wilkie earlier this month.

This new committee will provide advice to Ms Macklin, Mr Shorten and the Prime Minister on a full response to the recommendations in the 2010 Productivity Commission Report into Gambling. The committee will also provide input into the position the Australian Government will take to the COAG Select Council on Gambling.

It is expected that a resolution to establish the Parliamentary committee will be put to the Parliament in the first sitting week.

The Productivity Commission estimates that there are between 80,000 and 160,000 problem gamblers. In addition there are between 230,000 and 350,000 people at moderate risk.

Problem gambling destroys lives - not only the life of the problem gambler but also the lives of their families and friends.

The Gillard Government has committed to work with the states and territories to implement: a best practice pre-commitment scheme uniform across all states and territories by 2014 consistent with the recommendations made by the Productivity Commission; poker machine dynamic warning displays and cost of play displays and a \$250 daily withdrawal limit for ATMs in venues with poker machines (excluding casinos).

Date: 21 September 2010