



Rob Stokes

Pittwater MP

23 February 2009

Ms Roberta Bausch
Australian Productivity Commission
Inquiry into Gambling
GPO Box 1428
CANBERRA CITY, ACT 2601

Dear Ms Bausch

I am pleased to write in response to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Gambling on behalf of Pittwater RSL Club, a registered club in my electorate of Pittwater, of which I am a member.

My comments relate directly to the following section of the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry:

5. The contribution of gambling revenue on community development activity and employment.

The Pittwater RSL is a very well established part of the Pittwater community, providing many local and flexible employment opportunities in an outer metropolitan area of Sydney. The club serves more than 20,000 members, and provides an invaluable role as a social hub for many Pittwater residents, including many elderly people. The club also provides a free community bus to transport elderly club patrons. In a recent expansion, the club is constructing three new lawn bowling greens to provide social opportunities, chiefly for older residents.

The Pittwater RSL Sub-Branch remains very active, meeting twice every month, and provides a supportive and collegial environment for returned service personnel. The annual Pittwater RSL ANZAC Day service is an important cultural event for the Pittwater community, and is attended by thousands of local residents.

For many years, gambling revenue have formed an important part of the club's income, and a significant amount of revenue generated by gambling activities is re-invested into the local community. According to the 2007 Annual Report, Pittwater RSL Club provided a total of \$328,286.00 in donations to support local charities and sporting groups. In 2008 Pittwater RSL made both monetary and non-monetary donations to over forty charities and sporting groups, with an additional seven earmarked for assistance during 2009. Recipients include local Surf Clubs, Service

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Organisations, Rural Fire Service Brigades and local charities. All these recipients are extremely grateful for Pittwater RSL's continued support.

Pittwater RSL Club has also recently provided financial support for the installation of traffic lights at the corner of Foley Street and Mona Vale Road, Mona Vale, a dangerous intersection adjacent to the club. The financial support provided by Pittwater RSL will make this intersection much safer for vehicles and pedestrians.

While problem gambling is a significant problem in the wider Australian community, which must be addressed, I am pleased to report that Pittwater RSL uses much of the revenue it generates from gambling activities in support of the Pittwater community.

I hope this information can assist with your inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Stokes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rob Stokes MP
MEMBER FOR PITTWATER