



12 March 2009

Gambling Inquiry Productivity Commission
G P O Box 1428
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Sir/Madam

Inquiry into Australia's Gambling Industry

I am pleased to attach our submission to the above Inquiry.

We value and appreciate the significant support that this organization receives from Clubs NSW, as well as many registered clubs within NSW.

Their support and assistance enables WS NSW to provide a diverse range of wheelchair sporting events and programs, catering for the novice through to the elite wheelchair sports person.

Wheelchair athletes of all ages and abilities, including potential champions, display truly remarkable qualities of skills, determination, courage and sacrifice in overcoming the odds in sport as well as in life. For many, participating in sport is a great beginning to re-joining their community and regaining their self-esteem and independence. Our activities contribute to the welfare of people with a disability, and improve their quality of life.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this Inquiry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim O'Brien", is written over a white background.

Jim O'Brien
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Mr D Costello, Chief Executive Officer, Clubs NSW

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Productivity Commission Inquiry into the Australian Gambling Industry

Introduction

Wheelchair Sports NSW (WS NSW), established in 1961, is the highest profile and largest single disability sporting organisation in NSW. Each year we conduct a wide and diverse range of events and programs catering for the novice through to the elite wheelchair sportsperson.

Nearly one in five children and adults in NSW has a disability. Our Association provides the opportunity to participate in and enjoy sport. Something most individuals take for granted.

Our wheelchair members of all ages and abilities, including potential champions, display truly remarkable qualities of skills, determination, courage and sacrifice in overcoming the odds in sport as well as in life.

Vision:

Wheelchair Sports NSW changes people's lives. We are in the business of shaping, enriching and fulfilling individuals lives through sport. Our aim is to use sport as a powerful rehabilitation tool following catastrophic injury and/or illness and to better integrate individuals into society through sport.

Mission:

The Vision will be achieved by:

- being member driven
- providing a comprehensive range of quality sporting programs
- investing in and retaining quality staff and other resources
- ensuring financially secure environment
- promoting and raising awareness of the organization

Recent Key Achievements

In February 2009 WS NSW was awarded the very prestigious 2008 NSW Sports Organisation of the Year at the NSW Sports Federation Annual Sports Awards. This was the first time WS NSW was nominated for this award and it was in the company of strong competition from the other finalists, namely Football NSW, Netball NSW and Surf Life Saving NSW.

WS NSW secured the award through its work in 2008 presenting two major international events, namely the Arrive alive Summer Down Under Wheelchair Racing Series and the 20th anniversary of the Sydney International Wheelchair Tennis Open. WS NSW also distributed over \$150,000 in grants to its membership and purchased another 12 sport specific wheelchairs (cost \$40,000) for greater regional activity for members. The Wheelchair Sports Roadshow, a flagship program, reached over 30,000 individuals presenting messages on road safety. In the Beijing Paralympics, WS NSW was represented by 20 athletes who brought home 10 Gold, 5 Silver and 7 Bronze medals.

WS NSW members were also finalist in 10 categories including our own world renowned Wheelchair Rugby player Ryley Batt who won the Team Athlete of the Year with a Disability and our NSW Rugby Team winning the Team of the Year with a Disability.

Value of Club Support

WS NSW does not receive any recurrent government funding and relies on donations and grants from individuals, trusts and foundations, and organizations. It also receives one-off funding assistance for specific programs and/or events from government departments.

We are especially appreciative of the support we receive from many registered clubs around NSW which enables us to take our programs into their local communities. Without their continued support it would be very difficult for a small organization such as ours to provide sporting opportunities for people with a disability. It also offers the individual the opportunity to participate and to rejoin their community through a sporting activity. This is particularly important in rural and regional areas and where sport is a strong focus in community life.

Although registered clubs in NSW have been supporting WS NSW for some years, over the last two years we have received a total of \$145,500 CDSE funding from clubs, a not insignificant sum. The clubs have ranged from large metropolitan clubs, to smaller regional clubs.

As well, some clubs have supported specific wheelchair sporting events with both financial and in kind support. For example, the Rooty Hill RSL Club provided financial and in kind support to the 2007 Arrive alive Oceania Wheelchair Rugby Championships, a qualifying event for the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing.

The type of funding has been both level I and Level II CDSE depending on the particular need. It has ranged from the purchase of sports specific wheelchairs for both adults and juniors which are then loaned for 12 months to new members with the option of a discounted purchase at the end of the 12 months.

Wheelchairs have also been purchased for use in the Roadshow program which visits schools, tertiary institutions, and community organisations to discuss driver safety and provide the opportunity for able-bodied individuals to experience a basketball game in a wheelchair.

Other clubs have provided significant support to the Annual Junior Christmas Camp, and the bi-annual Junior National Wheelchair Games. These programs give juniors the opportunity to enjoy, socialize, and compete against other "wheelies" of their own age. For some juniors the Christmas camp is the first time they have had the opportunity to attend a camp and meet other juniors in a wheelchair.

Clubs have also supported our regional programs and monthly Come 'n Try Days for beginners.

To give some idea of the range of where the support comes from, the following registered clubs have provided financial support to WS NSW over the last two years:

2007 - Mounties/Harbord Diggers, Harbord; Revesby Workers Club, Canterbury Bankstown Rugby League Club and Bankstown Sports Club in Bankstown; North Ryde RSL and Community Club, Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club, Gladesville Bowling & Sports Club, and Ryde Ex-Services Memorial & Community Club in Ryde; Wenty Leagues Club; Queanbeyan Leagues Club; Parramatta Leagues Club; Bowlers Club NSW and

Tattersalls Club in Sydney; Wallsend Diggers Club in Newcastle; Pittwater RSL Club; Rooty Hill RSL Club; Toongabbie RSL Club; Ettalong RSL Club; and Mascot Club.

2008 – Bankstown Sports Club; Revesby Workers Club; The Mounties Group; Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club; North Ryde RSL Community Club; Ryde Ex-Services Club; Canterbury Bulldogs; Parramatta Leagues Club; Queanbeyan Kangaroo Rugby League Football Club; Shellharbour Workers Club; Bowlers Club NSW; City Tattersalls Club; Rooty Hill RSL Club; Wests Ashfield; Bomaderry Bowling Club and Gladesville Sporting Club.

Our relationship with Registered Clubs

Apart from the financial and in kind support, many directors and staff also demonstrate their support by attending sporting and fundraising events that are organized by WS NSW.

Clubs NSW also sponsors and supports a number of our events and programs.

This additional support enhances these events and helps to ensure their success. As well, it encourages a deeper understanding and appreciation of the complexities of every day life for a person with a disability.