



Your Ref:
Our Ref: DJB:IQ

27 March 2009

Gambling Inquiry Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Forwarded by email:27/3/09
gambling@pc.gov.au

Dear Sirs

MontroseAccess provides a range of therapeutic, respite and lifestyle services to over 600 children and young adults with physical disabilities throughout Queensland.

Although this organisation receives government funding, such funding is not sufficient to fully cover our operational costs. Our annual operational budget incurs a deficit of \$1 million per annum which has to be recouped through other activities such as fundraising.

Through Clubs Queensland, the club industry in Queensland has been a major supporter of MontroseAccess and the service we provide. This support emanates through their Clubs Smile for a Child campaign in which participating clubs and their members raise money for the campaign. This money is then distributed to charities such as MontroseAccess who use the revenue to provide services within the region the income was generated.

MontroseAccess has been fortunate to be a beneficiary from the Clubs Smile for a Child campaign since 2004, along with other beneficiaries such as the Starlight Children's Foundation and Camp Quality. Since 2004 we have received over \$500,000 in cash plus donations in kind from this valuable campaign. These funds have been utilised in direct service provision, and without this financial assistance a considerable number of individuals who are now our clients would be without any services.

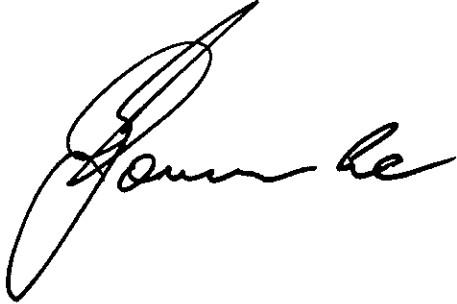
A secondary benefit from the Clubs Smile for a Child campaign is the increased awareness within the local communities of the difficulties and challenges facing people with disabilities and their families.

MontroseAccess fully supports your enquiry into gambling within Australia. While every effort should be made to ensure that any such activity is undertaken responsibly there should be recognition that licensed clubs already have active and effective programs to combat problem gambling. I would also urge the Inquiry to recognise the beneficial programs that the industry initiates and undertakes to add value to the local communities. Unfortunately these activities all too often do not receive appropriate acknowledgement.

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I sincerely hope that the findings of the Inquiry do not result in punitive measures being instigated that may result in licensed clubs being unable to continue to conduct such outstanding programs as the Smile for a Child campaign.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darrel Bourke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

Darrel Bourke
Chief Executive Officer