



9 April 2009

Gambling inquiry
Productivity Commission
Locked Bag 2, Collins St. East
MELBOURNE VIC 8003

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Productivity Commission Inquiry into Gambling

Cricket Australia welcomes the Productivity Commission's wide-ranging inquiry into gambling and is grateful for the opportunity to outline its views.

Gambling is a legal and, when regulated properly, legitimate pastime in Australia. Doubtless, it makes a significant contribution to the economy and helps fund a range of sports across the country. As long as this remains the case, Cricket Australia firmly believes that gambling should be accompanied by appropriate safeguards to ensure integrity and to minimise the harm caused by problem gambling.

Sports betting is a rapidly growing industry in Australia. We welcome all moves by state governments to ensure that betting agencies return a share of their profits from betting on our sports back to those responsible for 'putting on the show'. Indeed, we have been grateful to betting agencies in the past two years for willingly agreeing to enter into integrity agreements while, at the same, time, putting valuable funds back into sport to ensure the continuous ability of sports to fund their grass roots programs.

We have a number of official partners in the online wagering market. They include Betfair, Tabcorp, Sportingbet, Sportsbet, CentreBet, IASBet and Betchoice and various members of the Victorian Bookmakers Association. We work closely with these partners to ensure the integrity of our competitions by sharing information on wagering activity. We welcome the financial contribution from these partners, who pay us a portion of the revenue collected from betting on our sport.

Transparency

We believe transparency is the key to maintaining the integrity of betting on sport. Given the increasing popularity of online gambling, we now have detailed access to betting records and customer details held by many betting agencies in Australia offering markets on cricket. We believe account-based betting has made a significant contribution to monitoring betting on sport in Australia. We are of the view that wagering operators should be required to enter into these type of information sharing agreements if they wish to offer betting contingencies on cricket.

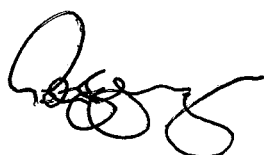
Micro-bets

We strongly discourage wagering operators from offering punters the opportunity to place micro-bets on scenarios that we believe are open to breaches of integrity. While wagering operators have the ability to determine what types of bets can be offered on our products, all operators have worked with Cricket Australia in the past to ensure that no problematic micro-bets are offered that encourage integrity issues. That they have done so without exception has demonstrated their commitment to exposing and eliminating breaches of integrity.

In-play betting

The *Interactive Gambling Act 2001* (Cth) currently prevents Australians from betting 'in-play' on sports using the Internet. Betting in-play is an important part of any serious, responsible approach to gambling because it allows a gambler to 'lay-off' bets, thereby reducing their risk on a particular outcome. Furthermore, Cricket Australia believes the inability to place in-play bets over the Internet is cutting off a significant revenue source not only for our sport, but for many others in Australia. The Act does permit 'in-play' bets over the telephone and, that being the case, we believe that there is no reason in principle to prohibit the same type of betting over the Internet.

Yours faithfully



PETER YOUNG
GENERAL MANAGER, PUBLIC AFFAIRS