



Mr G Banks AO
Chairman
Productivity Commission
Locked Bag 2, Collins St.
East, Melbourne, VIC 8003 Australia
gambling@pc.gov.au

Re: Gambling Inquiry

Harvestdata was retained by a not-for-profit organization to assist with their submission to the Productivity Commission's Gambling Inquiry.

During the course of this project, verbal and written requests were made for access to gambling prevalence data sets from authorities in Queensland, Victoria, NSW, ACT, NT and South Australia. All of our requests were denied and no data was ever supplied to Harvestdata, however South Australia offered to undertake analysis on request.

An earlier request for problem gambling prevalence data in Tasmania, pertaining to an unrelated consultancy, was also denied.

We are willing to supply the Productivity Commission copies of correspondence, and journal entries of conversations, in support of this claim. The list of people with whom we corresponded is below.

An open and transparent policy debate based on evidence is impossible if Governments do not release relevant data.

- Mr Ross Kennedy, Executive Director - Gaming and Racing, Office of Gaming and Racing, Department of Justice, Victorian Government for 2003 Victorian Longitudinal Community Attitudes Survey on Gambling data set.
- The Hon. Tony Robinson MP, Minister for Gaming, Consumer Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs for 2003 Victorian Longitudinal Community Attitudes Survey on Gambling data set.

- Mr Michael Foggo, Commissioner, NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing, Sydney for the Prevalence of Gambling and Problem Gambling in NSW - a Community Survey 2006 data set.
- The Hon. Kevin Greene MP, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation, NSW Government for the Prevalence of Gambling and Problem Gambling in NSW - a Community Survey 2006 data set.
- Mr Mike Sarquis, Executive Director, Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing, Queensland Government, for access to the data set for the Queensland Household Gambling Survey 2001, the Queensland Household Gambling Survey 2003-04 and the Queensland Household Gambling Survey 2006-07.
- Mr Peter Crossman, Government Statistician, Executive Director of the Office of Economic and Statistical Research, Government Statistician, Queensland Government for access to the data set for the Queensland Household Gambling Survey 2001, the Queensland Household Gambling Survey 2003-04 and the Queensland Household Gambling Survey 2006-07.
- The Hon. Andrew Fraser MP, Treasurer, Queensland Government, for access to the data set for the Queensland Household Gambling Survey 2001, the Queensland Household Gambling Survey 2003-04 and the Queensland Household Gambling Survey 2006-07.
- Ms Joslene Mazel, Chief Executive, Department of Families and Communities, South Australia for access to the data set for the Gambling Prevalence Study in South Australia in 2001 and 2005.
- Ms Robyn Power, Executive Officer, Northern Territory Licensing Commission for access to Northern Territory Gambling Prevalence Study 2005.
- Hon Konstantine Vatskalis MLA, Minister for Health, Minister for Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources, Minister for Racing, Gaming and Licensing, Minister for Alcohol Policy Commission for access to Northern Territory Gambling Prevalence Study 2005.
- Mr Greg Jones, Chief Executive, ACT Gambling and Racing Commission for access to the data set for the Survey and the Nature and Extent of Gambling and Problem Gambling in the ACT in 2001.

Yours faithfully

Dr. Gwyneth Howell