



24th November 2009.

Gambling Inquiry – Draft Report
Productivity Commission
Locked Bag 2, Collins St. East Melbourne
VIC 8003

Dear Sir,

I have been asked by the Management Committee of Yaralla Sports Club Inc to convey the serious concerns of our club and it's members on your Draft Report on Gambling.

Our club is situated in Gladstone. The principle objective of our club is **'the promotion and development of sport'**. We currently own and maintain over 48 hectares of sporting facilities including and 18 hole golf course, soccer fields, touch football fields, cricket ovals and a lawn bowls green.

We currently employ 85 people including 20 trainees and apprentices with \$2.4 million in wage expenditure and have 24,000 members who regularly attend the club facilities to pursue sporting, social, dining and entertainment activities apart from gaming.

Yaralla Sports Club spent over \$5.6 million in the 08/09 financial year supporting 120 local businesses. Total taxes and levies returned to the state government for the same period was \$1.86 million.

We have a total 100 volunteers contributing over 20,800 hours (equivalent to 10 F/T jobs) and last year recorded 520,000 active hours in social and organized sports and leisure activities.

Yaralla Sports Club is the largest non government provider of sporting and social facilities in Gladstone and donated over \$140,000.00 in cash to local sporting and charitable groups.

All staff receive recognized training in the Responsible Provision of Gambling Services and we are proud to say that we are the first club in Australia to our knowledge to embrace a mandatory gaming pre-commitment system.

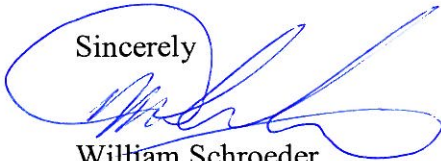
Whilst this inquiry is long overdue we question it's limited scope and the recommendations that will inherently generate a negative impact for our club and indeed our community.

We urge the Productivity Commission to seriously consider the following recommendations when finalising it's report:

- The rate of problem gambling has declined across Australia and in Queensland now stands at 0.47% of the adult population.
- Further research is required to establish a true understanding of the gambling sector. A one size fits all approach will not work considering the disparity between existing state jurisdictional models.
- It must be remembered that Clubs are not for profit and gaming is a community initiative. Funds generated from these activities support a range of community services and facilities.

Should the draft recommendations remain unchanged, the Productivity Commission may like to consider how sport and the considerable support for welfare, charities and the like will be funded as it is highly unlikely Yaralla Sports Club will be in a position to maintain it's current level of support.

Sincerely



William Schroeder
General Manager