



REVESBY WORKERS' CLUB

23 December 2009

Ms Roberta Bausch
The Productivity Commission
Locked Bag 2, Collins St East
Melbourne VIC 8003, Australia

Dear Ms Bausch

Further to Ms Jackalene Campbell's email of 18 December 2009 seeking an extension of time to allow Revesby Workers' Club to provide a further submission to the Productivity Commission's Gambling Enquiry, I am taking the liberty of forwarding this submission trusting that whilst late it will never the less be accepted.

Disappointedly our Club can not commend the Commission on its draft, given that

1. It would appear the Government's Terms of Reference in some significant instances have not been addressed or simply ignored – we note Club Australia's further submission of December 2009 page 3 where-in the question is posed "In Clubs Australia's view, the absence of cost-benefits analysis raises questions about the impartiality."

Terms 3 and 5 requiring the Commission to undertake analysis of club's contributions to the economy, job, infrastructure and social good being ignored which as Clubs Australia's point out were "completely ignored".

2. Despite what the writer personally considered was the most comprehensive, detailed, factual and analytical submission provided to the Commission by Clubs Australia in its original submission; reading the Commission's draft report it would appear the Club movement made no submission whatsoever.

These comments are made based on 25 years as a State MP, having read and indeed prepared dozens of reports and submissions. It is incomprehensible that the Commission would take what the writer considers is a most cavalier and indeed one could say an arrogant regard to the Club Movement's Submission.

Having read your report one observes barely a mention to the Club Submission.

3. Through-out the report Clubs' contribution to its members sporting and cultural groups and the community generally is minimised whilst any harm as a result of gambling is maximised.
4. The work of State Governments together with the Club Movement to reduce the incidents of problem gambling which has been particularly successful receives scant recognition despite the overall success in reducing the incidents of problem gambling to less than 1% from a previous 1999 Productivity Commission Report of in excess of 2% of the general population.

In a rather churlish reference the Commission now wants the guidelines to quoting the percentage of problem gamblers to relate to persons involved in gambling rather than for the population generally.

This certainly gives the impression of changing the goal posts to achieve the designated outcome when examining the overall results.

5. The rapidly expanding area of internet gambling which is largely uncontrolled does not appear to concern the Commission despite all the obvious risks – so that what we can then look forward to as a community provided one's credit card balance is healthy is for those who wish to pursue this form of gambling, the individual can smoke to their hearts content, drink as much as they like and gamble their money away without any regulatory oversight and absolutely no return to the Government or indeed Community benefit. A very strange priority for a body advising Government.

Overall one would take issue with the fairness and impartiality of the Productivity Commission Draft Report for the reasons outlined and many others which time does not permit to be dealt with.

Regrettably, however, given the consideration of our Club's submission and those of other clubs and Clubs Australia I regret we are all probably wasting our time.

The Commission's Draft Report will be read as just another attack on that vast band of volunteers who seek to serve their communities and members in the most honorable way with little by way of monetary or other reward.

What a great disappointment - given we are all concerned at any level of problem gambling, the Commission's approach would appear to be prohibitionist rather than seeking positive constructive solutions.

Yours faithfully

Pat Rogan per J. Harris

PAT ROGAN
President

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