

15<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Gambling Inquiry – Draft Report  
Productivity Commission  
Locked Bag 2,  
Collins Street East  
Melbourne Vic 8003

Dear Sir,

**Re : Club Response to Draft Report on Gambling**

We wish to convey our serious concerns of our club and its members on your Draft Report on Gambling.

Our Club is located in Maryborough some three hours drive north of Brisbane and has been established for some 50 years. We currently maintain three sporting ovals that are used primarily for cricket by A Grade, B Grade and Junior cricketers however our facilities are also use by Soccer clubs, Vigoro clubs and the general public.

We currently employ 9 staff and have a committed band of up to 20 volunteers who assist in running of the facilities. Our membership is currently in excess of 800 patrons. Our venue provides bar and dining facilities and entertainment as well as the gaming facilities including 18 poker machines.

The club subscribes to the Qld Responsible Gambling Code of Practice and we are very much aware of our obligations and responsibilities to people who may have a gambling problem.

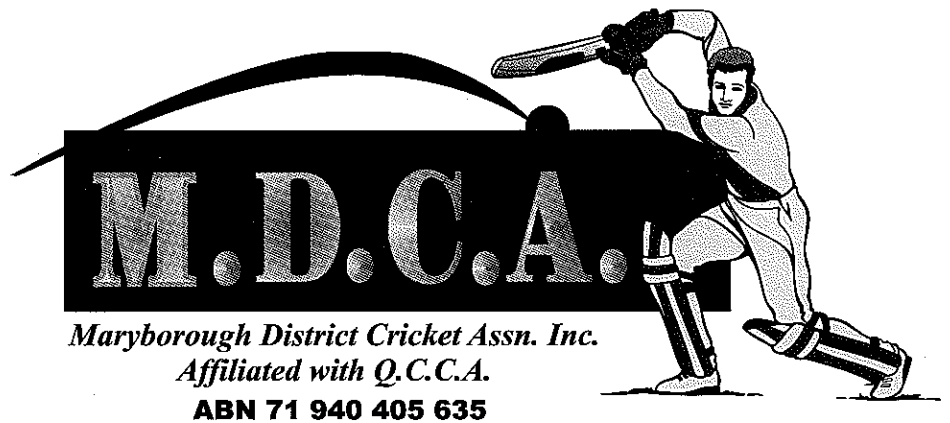
Whilst we welcome the gambling inquiry, we are very concerned about the negative impact that the draft findings and recommendations would have on the financial viability of our club. This would most likely include loss of jobs, curtailment of services and reductions in our community contributions.

We urge the Productivity Commission to seriously consider the practical reality of their recommendations. In particular, we urge the Productivity Commission to consider the following when finalising its Final Report :-

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Maryborough. 4650

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- The rate of problem gambling has declined across Australia because of the extensive measures that have been implemented since 1999. In Qld, this now stands at 0.47% of the adult population – measured through one of the largest surveys of its kind in the world.
- We need firm data, not estimates, to built effective policy. Therefore, nationally consistent research is needed if there is to be a “true” understanding of the gambling sector. A “one size fits all” approach is not possible because each State is different, with different regulations, tax rates, maturity of market, ownership model and splits between private and community ownership of gaming.
- Gaming serves different purposes in different venues. For clubs which are not for profit entities, gaming is a community initiative, which supports a range of community services and facilities. It is critical that there is a strong demarcation between community gaming and for-profit or entrepreneurial gaming.

The Productivity Commission should strive to achieve a balance in the Final Report between the needs of gaming venues and their patrons. There should be an acknowledgement of the extensive responsible gaming measures that are already in place and some attention should also be given to the concept of personal responsibility of the gambler.

Should the draft recommendations to the Productivity Commission remain unchanged we will see the demise of many sporting clubs including ourselves. We urge you to fully consider the implications of your decisions on this matter.

Yours faithfully,

T H Turner  
Secretary

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