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 Secretary
 Australian Republican Party,
 55 Hawksburn Road,
 South Yarra, Vic. 3141

In Reply please quote: _____

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25 NOV, 1998

**AUSTRALIA'S GAMBLING INDUSTRIES,
 GAMBLING INQUIRY,
 PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION,
 P.O. BOX 80,
 BELCONNON. A.C.T. 2616.**

FAX (02) 6240 3311.

Dear sir,

Gambling in the state of Victoria is creating problems for industries and families.

The Victorian Government has lost site of it's responsibility to protect those who have become compulsive gamblers and the people around them.

I know of one individual who is a compulsive gambler and got himself into debt to an approximate \$80,000 .

The Westpac bank kept on lending him money to go to Wrestpoint to gamble.

This person was also on a pension and ran a newspaper on the side.

He also sold other newspapers and gambled most of the money.

This person sold one newspaper for around \$60,000 purchased a unit , gambled the rest and ended up morgaging the unit and selling it.

His wife had to hide money in the fridge and in shoes so that she could pay bills.

The gambler never paid tax and was always borrowing money and in debt and behind in his bill.

I was advised that he once play a card game with a person who took some money from the till where he worked and when he lost that the expericed compulsive gambler advised him to take the rest of the money from the company till as he can't get into any more trouble as he is now and the person went and took the rest of the money from the till and lost that.

The individual lost his job and his wife had to mortgage their house and work to pay back the money he had taken from the till to stop her husband from going to jail.

The compulsive gambler I am referring to is quite open with his doctors about gambling and yet doctors do not seem to act on his behalf even though he may not wish them to help him.

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This is only one example of no doubt many cases of person becoming hooked on gambling and adversely effecting himself and family.

There needs to be more controls on gambling and there should be less outlets for gambling and advertising on neighbourhood watch newsletters should be stopped.

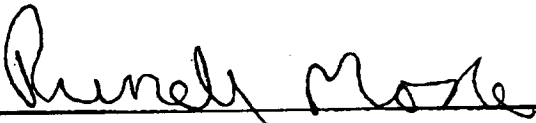
The medical profession needs to act more positively when they know their patient is hooked on gambling.

More resources need to be made available for counselling and an advertising campaign started to assist families to seek help to stop a compulsive gamble from sending the family bankrupt.

Governments have turned their backs on business and families so that they can gain easy revenue off gambling at a time when governments need less revenue as they are selling off government assets and cutting the public service.

I hope you will consider this submission and stop the damage unlimited gambling is having in Victoria.

Yours sincerely ,



Russell Morse. Convenor.