



ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
CAMBERWELL

23 July 1999

The Secretary
The Productivity Commission
Level 28
35 Collins Street
Melbourne 3000

Dear Sir/Madam

The Vestry (parish council) of St John's Church writes to support your stand against excessive gambling in your interim report on gambling. We have written in the following terms to various arms of government:

The Vestry (parish council) of St John's Anglican Church, Camberwell, was deeply disturbed to read the interim report on gambling released by the Productivity Commission.

With the Prime Minister, we are ashamed that Australia has 21 per cent of the world's poker machines. In particular, we are concerned that their distribution in Victoria is so markedly concentrated in areas of low income and low employment. The level of gambling addiction in Australian society, with its dire consequences on community, family and personal well-being, is alarming.

We call on all levels of government to implement, in the short term, strategies to lessen the extent of this damage, and in the long term, a full reassessment of the place of gambling in our community. In particular, we call for:

- 1) a moratorium on the expansion of all forms of gambling at least until the Productivity Commission completes its report;
- 2) prohibition on all forms of gambling advertising until legislation is introduced for consumer protection;
- 3) a change in the role and function of the Victorian Casino and Gambling Authority in the light of the Commission's findings;
- 4) the introduction of legislation to control Internet gambling.

Yours sincerely

(Dr) Muriel Porter
Churchwarden

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