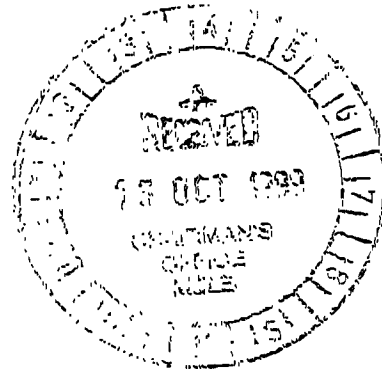


Fixed to Inquiry Team

11th October 1999

Mr Garry Banks
Chairman, Productivity Commission
Level 28, 35 Collins St
MELBOURNE 3000



Dear Mr Banks

I write in regard to your inquiry into "gaming".

I accept that citizens should be free to gamble in comfortable circumstances if they so desire. However, I would argue that the exercise of gambling, because of the power gambling has over some people, should need to be as a result of deliberate intention not as an accident. By this I mean that citizens going to shop in their local areas for the necessities of life should not be faced with the decision to gamble or not gamble. Facilities for gambling should be separated from the regular day-to-day activities.

I advocate also that advertising, and the concurrent glamorising of gambling should be forbidden. Gambling shops where the large majority loses and a small minority wins should not be able describe themselves as "lucky shops".

The law should compel the provision of clocks in the gaming rooms and bank automatic teller machines should not be allowed on gambling premises. This would force a cooling off period when the gambler needs to obtain a new stake.

Statistics should be kept and published at appropriate intervals of suicides committed within gambling precincts. I would not advocate reporting of individual incidents because of injury to families and the possibility of copy catting.

I would also support compulsory notification of the real odds facing gamblers and means to limit the amount of money that can be gambled at any one time.

I trust that these submissions will be of some assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Tony Michell

Tony Michell

24 Leyland Rd
Mount Waverley 3149