Universal Registration is Key to Preventing Gambling Harm.

Gambling is highly accessible and heavily promoted in Australia. Electronic gambling machines (EGMs) and online wagering are higher-risk products where the regulation of gambling has not kept pace with technological advances and new marketing strategies. Influence from the gambling industry, including through political donations, can create a barrier to meaningful action and reforms.

A system requiring people who gamble to establish a unique account would facilitate the introduction of important harm reduction tools, including binding limits on losses. By their nature, these systems do not affect those who gamble at no-risk levels. Pre-commitment systems for gambling have been introduced successfully internationally. These recommendations are informed by key learnings from Norway, Finland, Sweden, and Britain.

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2018 Churchill Fellow (VIC)

Key Policy Recommendations

1. Prohibit political donations from gambling industry actors, to enable policymakers to introduce meaningful reforms.

2. Ensure that the National Anti-Corruption Commission can address undue influence on policymakers by harmful industries.

3. Establish a royal commission into gambling regulation in Australia, to enquire into the nature and extent of operator duty of care and practices, provide a platform for those affected by gambling, and document the ways in which product design influences harm.

4. Transition to a centralised, universal account registration system across Australia for wagering and EGMs. This would provide a platform for the deployment of a range of harm reduction measures, particularly a pre-commitment system with binding loss limits.

5. Prohibit predatory promotions and practices, including inducements to gamble. This should include a progressive reduction in gambling advertising, including during sport and on social media. This may require financial support to account for advertising revenue losses; it could be modelled for instance on the tobacco advertising ban, which saw tobacco advisements replaced with a QUIT tobacco campaign.
Policy Snapshot

Social costs

For every high risk gambler, six affected others are harmed.

The Biggest Losers

Australians lose around $25 billion on all forms of gambling each year.

The equivalent of nearly $1,200 per adult in Australia each year.

Gambling harm costs $7 billion annually in Victoria alone.

Evidence abroad

In Australia, less than 1% of people who gamble on electronic gaming machines (EGMs) use an optional pre-commitment system.

But centralised account registration can deliver full, universal pre-commitment systems for gambling...

In Finland, almost half of all moderate and high risk gamblers agreed that 'new limits helped me to control my gambling.'

In Norway, unprecedented reforms resulted in reduced participation in gambling, and a corresponding reduction in harm.

Respondents agreed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non problem gambler</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Risk gambler</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low risk gambler</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate risk gambler</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem gambler</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*New limits helped me to control my gambling*

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