

4 December 2023

Dear Prime Minister, Mr Anthony Albanese and Minister for Communications, Hon. Michelle Rowland

Re: adopting all recommendations in *You Win Some, You Lose More* regarding online gambling.

We represent a large cross section of the community in NSW. Our organisations have a long history of working to reduce all forms of harm and to improve social justice and equity. We are sure you recognise our authority to speak when it comes to urging you to act to protect the vulnerable in our communities, especially our children.

Australia ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990. As such, we have a legal and moral obligation to ensure all our children enjoy those rights.

- Article 17 calls on States to ensure the protection of the child from information and material injurious to his or her well-being.
- Article 19 requires the State to protect children from maltreatment and exploitation.
- Article 24 asserts the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health.
- Articles 32 and 36 recognizes the right of the child to be protected from economic and other exploitation.

We are sure that you agree that gambling advertising, which targets, manipulates and exploits, and which is injurious to well-being, should therefore be subject to significant regulation. There is well documented and consistent evidence that harm, from their own gambling or the gambling of others, has a significant and detrimental impact on children's mental and physical health.

The current bans on gambling ads during times designated as children's hours simply do not sufficiently protect children. They watch TV after these hours, often with their parents, often watching family programs like MasterChef. They listen to the radio. And above all, they are active on digital platforms.

Tobacco advertising bans on all these channels work. We know from the Australian Ad Observatory that the ban on tobacco advertising is holding, even in the hidden world of targeted digital advertising.

We urge you to accept the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs, set out in their report "*You Win Some, You Lose More*". In particular, we cannot state strongly enough our support for the comprehensive banning of online gambling marketing, on all channels.

We know that broadcasters and sports codes have dusted off the scripts they used when tobacco advertising was banned. Does anyone any more even remember the Benson & Hedges Cup? Did cricket die in Australia? The answer to both is "no". A three-year phase in of the ban will give all sports and broadcasters ample opportunity to identify alternative revenue sources. The market will fill the gap, as it has done in the past.

We look forward to your government's strong and timely support for, and implementation of this vital reform that will reduce gambling harm and its flow on impacts in our nation considerably.

Yours sincerely,

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CEO and Superintendent
Wesley Mission



Captain Kim Haworth
Divisional
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Ben McAlpine
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