AUSTRALASIAN Gaming Council
ABN 64 092 720 753

Lyn Beverley
Secretary
Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform
PO BOX 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

11th March 2011

By email: gamblingreform@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Beverley,

Please find below the response of the Australasian Gaming Council (AGC) to the question taken on notice at the AGC's appearance before the Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform at the public hearing held in Canberra on Tuesday 15th February 2011.

The question, put by Senator Nick Xenophon and found at page 37 of the transcript, was as follows:

Senator Xenophon: …My final issue is that you talk about it being too much of a rush. What time frame do you say the industry needs to implement changes to the design of machines to make them safer? Do you want to take that on notice?

AGC Response:

While this question occurred subsequent to a broad ranging discussion, the AGC comment about haste in implementation to which the Senator refers was directed to the topic of the time required to engage in the research and changes to Electronic Gaming Machine (EGM) and EGM network functionality that would be required to allow for any form of pre-commitment on Australia's 197,000 plus EGMs.

As such, the AGC has taken the Senator's question to refer to the time frame needed by the gaming industry to implement any and all changes that may allow for pre-commitment availability on EGMs.

The AGC note that the period required for implementation of any pre-commitment scheme (either voluntary or mandatory in its uptake by consumers) has been the subject of a number of AGC member submissions to the Joint Select Committee.

AGC members are, specifically, the Gaming Technologies Association (GTA), the Australian Hotels Association (AHA), The Australasian Casinos Association (ACA) and the Australian Leisure and Hospitality Group (ALH). The AGC concur with the statements made by our members on this issue.

The AGC wish to add however that the time required for implementation of any pre-commitment system may not be bounded solely by the many challenges related to technological, logistical and economic feasibility but must also factor in the period(s) required for relevant research into the details, parameters and efficacy of any proposed system, as well as the formulation of appropriate staff training measures and consumer education materials – all of which remain integral to the overall efficacy and uptake of any product or measure.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Vardon
Chief Executive
Australasian Gaming Council

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