

Submission

Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission in relation to the Review of Gambling Harm Minimisation Measures.

People can become addicted to gambling for lots of different reasons. Mostly though, addiction happens due to problems a person already has in their life. If you have an unhappy family background, have been in trouble with the law, or are just plain down, you are much more likely to try to block out your problems. Sometimes the hard part is not so much giving up gambling, but finding other things in life that can give you real happiness. This is even more difficult in a world where fragmentation of social relationships is common place, and beliefs around 'luck' (and karma), are more prevalent than ever before.

Hence, perhaps it is time to put 'values' based programs in our schools, and in our local clubs (compulsory attendance required before people are allowed to become members of clubs where gambling is permitted).

The compulsory program I suggest would be more than just an information session, and would require participants to reflect on the important parts of their life, and develop an action plan of how to make their personal vision come to life. It would require participants to recognise their personal values, and consider their impact upon the way they live. This awareness is essential when seeking to prevent harm, and is the cornerstone of any process around fighting psychological addiction when it does take hold.

Thank you, and regards,

Richard Perin