

JUSTINE DAVIS MLA
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR JOHNSTON

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Media Release: Independent MLA Justine Davis calls for independent inquiry into Racing and Wagering Commission

Thursday 23 October 2025

Today in Parliament the Attorney General refused to accept my referral of the *Racing and Wagering Act* to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee. This is another example of the CLP choosing to avoid issues that are causing severe harm to Territorians. I am left with no choice but to call on the government to establish an independent inquiry into the Racing and Wagering Commission.

The inquiry must report on:

1. Whether the Racing and Wagering Act 2024:
 - (i) meets community expectations Australia-wide;
 - (ii) is fit for purpose for a quasi-national regulator; and
 - (iii) contains sufficient safeguards to protect Australians from predatory behaviour by the gambling industry and promote safe engagement with gambling activities;
2. Whether conflict of interest provisions applying to Commission members are sufficiently robust and are consistent with national and international standards;
3. The extent of real or perceived influence exerted by the gambling industry in respect of public policy in the Northern Territory, and whether legislation in relation to such influence should be revised and reformed;
4. Whether the Northern Territory's framework for donations and lobbying meets community expectations and is consistent with national and international standards;

We have seen serious allegations regarding the capacity of the Commission to regulate an industry of this scale, as well as the conduct of individuals on the Commission and their involvement in the industry.

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On Tuesday, the Attorney General said 'if there are issues, we will look at them. If there is evidence and proof to any real claims, give it to the right body to investigate.' That is exactly what I did.

The Attorney General's refusal to address this matter must leave Territorians wondering whether their government would rather protect a \$50 billion dollar industry by maintaining a weak regulator, than prioritise the safety and wellbeing of the people they are meant to represent.

The Attorney General has another opportunity to show Territorians that she takes their concerns seriously. I urge her to stick to her word and look at the issues by establishing this inquiry immediately.

Justine Davis
Independent Member for Johnston
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