



GAMBLING AND PRE COMMITMENT POLICY



WHAT WE BELIEVE

Australians have been brought up with gambling or “having a punt” as part of our culture, at all levels. Having a free opportunity to put a bet on whether its on the horses, the dogs or on poker machines or even a game of “Two Up” on ANZAC day, we all understand that its part of our culture and part of human nature.

Punters should be free to make their own choices on what they gamble on, how much they are prepared to risk and how often they have a punt, its called freedom of choice.

It is not compulsory for any of us to gamble though many feel the overwhelming need to the point of addiction.

Our party believes that those who have developed the gambling habit to the point of addiction, where it causes family break down and impoverishment, should be helped. No one should be benefitting from those with addictions or gaining from the suffering of others.

We believe that the specific targeting of Poker machine use and revenue for further draconian regulation, untested and untargeted will result in major job and income loss in regional areas of NSW. Losses these regions can ill afford.

Untargeted and untested regulation can and will cause more financial and community suffering than it prevents.

We support targeted mandated pre commitment for those with gambling addiction or problems, once a trial period of testing has occurred and an industry supported program emerges.

We do not believe the current narrative that criminals are “money laundering” cash through poker machines to any great extent. The fact that



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criminals spend cash on gambling on poker machines is no more money laundering than spending their proceeds of crime on groceries at the supermarket.

A government issued and controlled Pre Commitment card with a limit, designed to support a ban on cash use in poker machines will result in a worse outcome for all the community and families. Data security will be a major issue as even government data bases are not secure, this is a proven fact.



OUR ACTION PLAN

The implementation of universal pre commitment cashless gaming through poker machines will not be supported.

Government mandated and controlled pre commitment cards is a bridge to far, government can not be trusted with our data when it comes to recording our personal preferences and habits.

Government storage of such data is not secure and will not be supported.

Industry supported, implemented and run programs once proven for problem gamblers will be supported, a no harm test to local Regional communities must be part of such programs. A simple promise to provide support from government while communities “transition” away from the loss of income is not acceptable. This has been seen as a failed policy in rural and regional areas over many decades especially in the timber industry. It does not work.

Any mandated change for implementation of Pre Commitment cards for problem gamblers must be wholly funded by government.