



National Campaign Headquarters

5 August 2010

Mr Anthony Ball
Executive Director – Clubs Australia
Level 8, 51 Druitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Ball

Clubs Australia

1. Club taxation

A re-elected Gillard Labor Government will not implement changes to the tax system that harm the not-for-profit sector, including changing income tax arrangements for clubs, consistent with Federal Labor's response to **Australia's Future Tax System Review**.

Federal Labor understands the importance of clubs, and the not-for-profit sector generally to Australians. We understand that providing certainty in the taxation arrangements and concessions is vitally important to ensure the viability of not-for-profit organisations.

2. Problem gambling

The Gillard Labor Government acknowledges the harm that can be caused by problem gambling.

This is why Federal Labor requested the Productivity Commission to undertake an inquiry into gambling in Australia.

The Productivity Commission estimates there are between 80,000 and 160,000 Australian adults suffering severe problem gambling.

While State and Territory Governments are responsible for the regulation of gambling in Australia, Federal Labor is committed to working closely with them to develop a national response to the Productivity Commission report.

In our initial response to the report, we have shown our support for pre-commitment technology as an important tool in tackling problem gambling.

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The Productivity Commission found that pre-commitment is the most effective way to target problem and at-risk gamblers without impacting upon the wider gambling community.

Pre-commitment empowers people to take responsibility for their own spending behaviour by helping them decide exactly how much they want to spend before they start playing.

We will work with State and Territory Governments and industry to implement this technology.

Federal Labor does not agree with the Productivity Commission's 2010 report into gambling which recommended that the Federal Government amend the **Interactive Gambling Act** to allow for a liberalisation of online gambling.

Federal Labor is not convinced that liberalising online gaming would have benefits for the Australian community that would outweigh the risks of an increased incidence of problem gambling, particularly with the rapid changes in technology. The current prohibition on the provision of online gaming services to Australians will continue to apply.

We are committed to a new high-level Council of Ministers on Gambling Reform, to ensure a national approach and real action on problem gambling.

The Gillard Labor Government will work with State and Territory Governments, industry and the wider community to tackle problem gambling maintain current online gambling rules, empower people to take responsibility and ensure that people who wish to gamble responsibly continue to be able to do so.

Further, as part of Federal Labor's Cybersafety plan, we will also introduce a grants program to encourage internet service providers to offer additional level filtering to families that want to have a wide range of material blocked, including gambling sites. This will help parents to choose what they want filtered without having to download and install software to their home computers.

Kind Regards

ALP Information Services