

Appendix 1 Conduct of Inquiry

Appointment and terms of reference

On 25 March 1999 the Senate re-established the Select Committee on Information Technologies to:

- a) evaluate the development of self-regulatory codes in the information industries;
- b) monitor the personal, social and economic impact of continuing technological change created by industries and services utilising information technologies;
- c) examine the Government's decision to establish a regulatory framework relating to illegal or offensive material published and transmitted through online services such as the Internet: and
- d) inquire into and report on such other matters as may be referred to it by the Senate.

On 25 June 1999, the Committee resolved to inquire into online gambling in Australia under part (b) of its terms of reference, in order to examine:

- the nature, extent and impact of online gambling in Australia;
- the feasibility of controlling access to online gambling, especially by minors;
- the adequacy of State and Territory regulations in relation to online gambling; and
- the need for federal legislation.

Advertising the inquiry

The Committee issued a press release on 31 May 1999 and advertisements were placed in *The Australian* on 2 and 5 June 1999, calling for written submissions to be lodged by 30 July 1999. In addition, the Committee wrote to relevant State and Territory governments and organisations and individuals with an interest in the inquiry.

Evidence to the inquiry

The Committee received 66 written submissions (See Appendix 2). All submissions were authorised for publication, except one submission accepted in confidence.

The submissions represented a wide range of views, ranging from the positive social and economic impacts of online gambling to the negative impacts of problem gambling.

During the course of the inquiry, the Committee also received additional information relating to the written submissions and follow-up from evidence, details of which are listed in Appendix 3.

Course of the inquiry

Public hearings were held in Canberra, Sydney, Alice Springs and Melbourne. Witnesses included representatives from the major online gambling service providers, casinos, academia, industry regulators, and church and welfare organisations in Australia.

During its Alice Springs hearing, the Committee conducted site inspections of the online gaming casino, Lasseters Online, housed within Lasseters Casino, and the Internet sports betting operation, Centrebet, owned by Jupiters Ltd, located at the Alice Springs Racecourse.

The Committee also conducted a private briefing with officers from the Productivity Commission, to discuss their report on *Australia's Gambling Industries*.

A total of 44 witnesses gave evidence with 3 of those appearing *in camera*. Details of the witnesses appearing are at Appendix 4.

Hansard recorded 301 pages of evidence (including 30 pages of *in camera* evidence) at the Committee's hearings.

The transcripts of evidence are available at the Parliament's Internet website at:

<http://www.aph.gov.au>