



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Standing Committee on the Integrity
Commission and Statutory Office
Holders

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into the Electoral (Gambling Industry) Amendment Bill 2026

Submission number: 003

Submitter: Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

Date authorised for publication: 7 July 2026

Inquiry into the Electoral (Gambling Industry) Amendment Bill 2026

Submission from the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

To: the Standing Committee on the Integrity Commission and Statutory Office Holders

By email: LACommitteeIntegrity@parliament.act.gov.au

The **Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy** (CAPaD) is a volunteer community education charity.

Our objective is to promote individual and community well-being and the common good in a healthy environment by advancing education to inspire people to participate in strengthening democracy.

Our theory of change: good government is government that delivers planetary and societal well-being and the common good. One path to good government is by more community participation in the political process, that is a more democratic political process, and through electing parliamentarians who will facilitate people's participation and work for good government.

Position

CAPaD supports the proposed amendments because that helps remove undue influence from politics in the ACT.

Justification

The perception of parliamentarians not standing up to undue influence, such as would seem to have happened at the federal level with implementation of the *You win some, you lose more* Report, undermines public trust in government and the resulting cynicism enable the rise of more authoritarian political actors.

CAPaD notes the points made by Mr Emerson in his explanatory statement:

"This bill and the penalties it imposes are modelled on the ACT's existing prohibition of political donations from property developers. It applies to all political parties, members of the Legislative Assembly, candidates and associated entities. It bans donations from gambling industry entities including casinos, licensed bookmakers, racing organisations, venues with poker machines, manufacturers of gambling products or equipment, any entity that receives a majority of its funding from the gambling industry and any other individual or entity whose business undertakings significantly involve wagering, betting or other gambling.

It also bans donations from close associates of any of the entities captured by the bill, drawing on the definition of what comprises a "close associate" from the existing property developer ban in the Electoral Act, combined with the definition of an "influential owner" in the Gaming Machine Act.

The bill also closes a loophole that has allowed parties to exclude in-kind donations of free facilities use or free venue hire from their weekly gift disclosures to the ACT Electoral Commission ..."

CAPAD is also cognizant of the recommendations of the [Murphy Report](#) (*You win some, you lose more*, the report of its [inquiry into online gambling and its impacts on those experiencing gambling harm](#)). In a community assembly exercise CAPaD ran in February and March this year, implementing the Murphy Report recommendations in full was one of the two matters which Canberrans elected to as our federal MPs to take to government. This reflects strong community support for limits to the gambling industry's ability to unduly influence governments and parliaments.

Conclusion

In passing these amendments to reduce the undue influence of the gambling industry, the ACT Legislative Assembly will confirm their commitment to good government and help maintain public confidence in the political system.