



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

---

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter AM MLA (Deputy Chair), Nicole Lawder MLA,  
Meegan Fitzharris MLA

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Inquiry into 2013–14 Annual reports

Racing and Gaming portfolio

Responses to questions taken on notice at public hearing of 11 November 2014



QTON # 1 - 11 Nov 14  
Min for Racing & Gaming

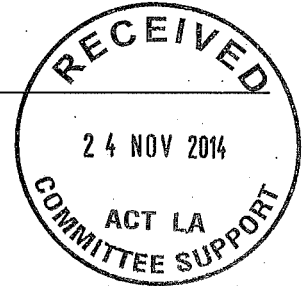


**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter AM MLA (Deputy Chair), Nicole Lawder MLA,  
Yvette Berry MLA

**Inquiry into referred 2013–14 Annual and Financial Reports**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**11 November 2014**



**Asked by:** Ms Yvette Berry

**In relation to:** Client cohort longitudinal research study

**MS BERRY:** A supplementary: I note that it looks like this project is being done that little tiny bit outside of the sector of any gambling venues. Is there any support from the gambling venues in contributing to this somehow?

**Mr Jones:** This is the Relationships Australia counselling contract you mean?

**Ms Burch:** The long-term cohort.

**Mr Jones:** The contributions the industry make is through the problem gambling assistance fund, which is a mandatory levy on all gaming machine licensees. That brings in approximately \$1.1 million a year. There is a voluntary contribution from both Casino Canberra and ACTTAB, now TABCorp, which creates a fund which is expended on things like the counselling service, which is Relationships Australia plus other research projects. The longitudinal study is funded through that fund. The industry contributes into that fund which then pays the ACT contribution to that. The industry is effectively directly funding that study.

**MS BERRY:** Is there any more information you can provide the committee on this study? Who are participants in this research?

**Ms Burch:** And how they will be recruited and supported through?

**MS BERRY:** Yes.

**Ms Burch:** Part of this longitudinal study is to follow that intervention journey and to see the outcomes of that. My understanding is a lot of the scoping work for phase 1 was being done this calendar year.

**Mr Jones:** Yes.

**Ms Burch:** We can put forward what we have got available on it.

**Mr Jones:** Yes. Certainly we can provide quite a bit of detail on the actual design of that research. The clients we are looking at are those that attend counselling services. The reason we are doing a joint study with New South Wales is because the sample size in the ACT with those people is way too small, so we

need to broaden it considerably. New South Wales is certainly interested and well engaged in being part of the outcomes of this process. We are recruiting through New South Wales those clients that attend counselling services. The ACT is included, but the bulk of the clients will come from New South Wales.

**MS BERRY:** Do you know if they are collecting information about demographics?

**Mr Jones:** Certainly, yes. All the usual research demographics about the profiles of those participants and where they heard of the counselling services, what their experiences were, how many sessions they attended. All that sort of thing is all collected as part of the research, definitely.

**MS BERRY:** If you can provide us with some more information that would be really good.

**Mr Jones:** Certainly. I will take that on notice.

**Ms Joy Burch, Minister for Racing and Gaming: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-**

The study is being conducted by the Centre for Gambling Research at the Australian National University (ANU). Its purpose is to collect information that will assist better planning and delivery of problem gambling services in ACT and NSW. It will examine treatment pathways of problem gamblers and of family members and friends of problem gamblers through a continuum of treatment such as self-help, online, telephone and face-to-face counselling. This project will provide a high-quality evidence base to inform strategies to encourage help-seeking for problem gambling, to assist in the retention of clients in treatment programs, and to determine where and when systematic follow-up of former clients is warranted.

The study will be conducted in partnership with the NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming & Racing, the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission and the service providers throughout the two jurisdictions. All services funded by the NSW Responsible Gambling Fund and Relationships Australia in ACT (funded through the Problem Gambling Assistance Fund) will be approached for the study. The recruitment of clients will be completely voluntary and will be undertaken through these face-to-face counselling services.

#### Participants

Participants in the study will be problem gamblers who access specialist support services in NSW and the ACT, as well as family and friends of problem gamblers who directly access such services. The study will follow clients after treatment for at least two years to determine whether they are doing well, if they have recurring problems related to gambling and whether they seek help from the same or from different services.

The study aims to recruit up to 800 problem gambling clients and 120 family members and friends using a phased recruitment that will allow for revision of recruitment methodology on an annual basis.

#### Recruitment

Broad recruitment throughout ACT and NSW will give a sample size large and diverse enough for multivariate analyses examining the complex dynamics involved in relapse, drop outs and recovery in the treatment of gambling problems. It will allow for some changes in providers and ensure client diversity (e.g. socioeconomic, Indigenous and cultural and linguistic).

#### Study design

Data for the study will be collected via Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI) of up to 20-30 minutes each, providing a cost efficient way of interviewing a large number of people. These will be conducted with clients shortly after entering treatment, during treatment, shortly after leaving treatment, and every six months after that. Repeat interviews during treatment will be dependent on the length of

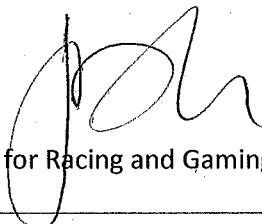
time that clients remain in treatment, and clients will be contacted every two months to ask whether they are still in treatment.

In addition to the CATI component, interviews of family and friends will include qualitative telephone and/or face-to-face interviews conducted by ANU researchers. The information in these interviews will be used to select subgroups of family members for in-depth qualitative interviews. This mix of quantitative and qualitative research methodology will allow more detailed exploration of this diverse sample.

A commercial market and social research organisation will conduct the CATI interviews, maintain the cohort throughout the recruitment and longitudinal phases, and provide data sets to the ANU researchers for analysis. ANU researchers will conduct interviews for in-depth, add-on studies, including any face-to-face interviews. The research design has been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee which will ensure that appropriate sensitivity and strict confidentiality will be maintained throughout the study.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature:



Date:

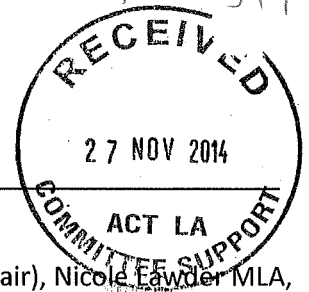
2011-14

By the Minister for Racing and Gaming, Ms Joy Burch MLA





**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter AM MLA (Deputy Chair), Nicole Lawder MLA,  
Yvette Berry MLA

**Inquiry into referred 2013–14 Annual and Financial Reports**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**Tuesday, 11 November 2014**

Asked by Ms Berry:

In relation to:

**MS BERRY:** I have a quick supplementary to that. Minister, you have offered to write a letter today to the minister. Do you think that letter would go before the committee hearings finished? It would be lovely to have a—

**Ms Burch:** If the committee has an appetite, I am quite happy to. There has been something. Again it came up today at the roundtable, and I think it is worth putting back on the agenda, to see where we are with it.

**MS BERRY:** That would be good, and if you could provide the committee with a copy of that letter, that would be wonderful.

**THE CHAIR:** But you have just told me that it has been handled through integrity in sport.—

**MS BERRY:** No; I am talking about the—

**Ms Burch:** This is online betting; it is quite separate from the matter that you raised.

**THE CHAIR:** But that was my question. My question was in regard to online betting and whether you had had conversations with your federal counterparts.

**Ms Burch:** I am sorry. You made mention of Capital Football, people betting on Capital Football. This was a broader issue. It follows on from the question from Ms Lawder and the conversation I shared with you where I mentioned smartphones and computers. Problem gambling is broader than just gaming machines; it is all sorts of other activities that are beyond a Northern Territory bookmaker betting on Capital Football, Mr Smyth. You can look at it any which way you like. I have offered to the committee—

**THE CHAIR:** I have just asked you a question, minister. You are the one that is being defensive.

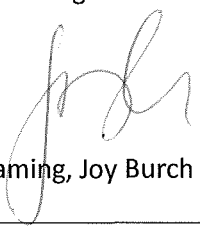
**Ms Burch:** I have shared with the committee that I am interested in writing a letter. I have offered the committee a copy of that letter if it is drafted and completed in time before the proceedings are finished.

**MINISTER BURCH:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

I noted to the Committee my intention to write to the Federal Minister for Communications in relation to online gambling. A signed copy of that letter is at Attachment A.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature:



25

Date: November 2015

By the Minister for Racing and Gaming, Joy Burch MLA



## Joy Burch MLA

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
MINISTER FOR DISABILITY  
MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTER FOR RACING AND GAMING  
MINISTER FOR WOMEN  
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

---

MEMBER FOR BRINDABELLA

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP  
Minister for Communications  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

I am writing regarding the ACT Government's ongoing support for effective regulation of interactive gambling and for the enforcement of harm minimisation and consumer protection measures relating to this type of gambling activity.

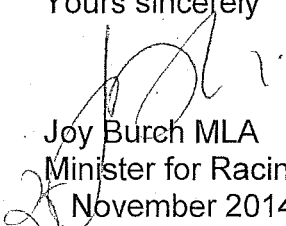
The ACT Government recognises that problem gambling poses a significant cost to the community which is likely to increase as online gambling increases in popularity. It is important to take action to control the detrimental effects of excessive and unregulated gambling provided on this medium.

To this end, the mitigation of harm associated with problem gambling in the ACT remains a key focus for the ACT Government. While the ACT has attempted to legislate in this area with the *Interactive Gambling Act 1998*, the legislation is not consistent with the Commonwealth's *Interactive Gambling Act 2001* (the Act). This has resulted in the ACT not having any legal basis to regulate online gambling activities.

The former Commonwealth Government conducted a review of the Act in 2013 which led to all jurisdictions indicating their in-principle support (subject to further discussion with relevant ministers) to work toward a national harm minimisation standard. Jurisdictions also supported the establishment of a joint working party to take forward recommendations arising from the review.

I have previously indicated the ACT Government's commitment to working collaboratively with the Commonwealth and would encourage you to reinvestigate action on this important issue.

Yours sincerely

  
Joy Burch MLA  
Minister for Racing and Gaming  
November 2014

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY