

To the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Regarding the inquiry into future of the ACT Clubs sector

From Dr Gösta Lyngå



Dear Mr Smyth,

Thank you and the committee for the opportunity to make a submission about the gambling industry in the ACT. I want to submit the following about the current situation, what needs to be known and the possible reforms to be made:

Current situation:

1. Through the income from gambling machines, Clubs are able to fund a number of activities which are important for a vibrant society.
2. Because of gambling addiction, a number of individuals and their families are suffering heavy losses, economic as well as in quality of life.

What needs to be known:

1. How many individuals suffer psychological damage because of problem gambling?
2. How many families suffer economic damage because of gambling by a family member?
3. To what extent do different clubs directly or indirectly rely on income from gambling?

Possible reforms:

1. Clubs should investigate other sources of income, such as games without financial risk and sweeps with limited ticket costs.
2. If gaming machines are to be continued, strict limits to the total spending by each person should be maintained.
3. Information should be made available about the statistical chances of profits from gambling.
4. Support should be given to problem gamblers and their families.
5. An awareness campaign should concern gambling problems including statistics.
6. Socially useful activities should be funded through grants from the ACT government to an increased extent.
7. Political parties should not be funded by revenue from gaming machines.

Lyons, May 19, 2015

Dr Gösta Lyngå

	A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE
SUBMISSION NUMBER	97
DATE AUTH'D FOR PUBLICATION	9 June 2015