



Committee Secretariat
Legislative Scrutiny Committee
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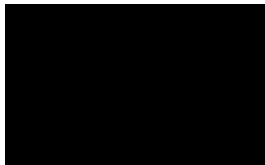
Dear Legislative Scrutiny Committee

The Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) is grateful for the opportunity to provide this submission to the Inquiry into the Racing and Wagering Amendment Bill 2026.

This submission is approved at ACL's national organisation level.

Thank you for giving our submission your careful consideration.

Yours Faithfully



Nicholas Lay
NT Director

Submission to the NT Racing and Wagering Amendment Bill 2026

AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN LOBBY

About Australian Christian Lobby

The vision of the Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) is to see Christian principles and ethics influencing the way we are governed, do business, and relate to each other as a community. ACL seeks to see a compassionate, just and moral society through having the public contributions of the Christian faith reflected in the political life of the nation.

With around 250,000 supporters, ACL facilitates professional engagement and dialogue between the Christian constituency and government, allowing the Voice of Christians to be heard in the public square. ACL is neither party-partisan nor denominationally aligned. ACL representatives bring a Christian perspective to policy makers in Federal, State and Territory Parliaments.

acl.org.au

Gambling overview

The Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) broadly supports measures that aim to support problem gamblers break their addiction. This can be aided by strong regulatory oversight.

Australians have the highest per capital spend on online gambling. Estimates suggest that Australians lose approximately \$32 billion¹ on all legal forms of gambling each year, representing the largest per capita losses in the world.² The Northern Territory Racing and Wagering Commission has become Australia's de facto online gambling regulator. Tabcorp said the Northern Territory is 'less regulated and (you) pay less taxes and fees'³.

The *Murphy inquiry* has recommended that a national online regulator be established to reduce gambling harm (Recommendation 3).⁴ The ACL supports a national regulator being established.

While Australia waits for a national regulator to be established, the Northern Territory should not delay in taking steps to better protect all Australian problem gamblers and strengthen the integrity of the current de facto online gambling Commission.

The Assembly should pass the bill

This Bill makes common-sense changes to reduce any perceived or actual conflicts of interest at the Commission. The Bill removes all racing-related responsibilities from the Commission. The Bill introduces new provisions that would reduce the chance of a conflict of interest of those on the Commission. The Bill re-names the Commission, the Northern Territory Wagering Commission, to reflect its new responsibilities.

This bill increases public trust in the Commission and reduces risk of perceived or actual conflicts of interest. The ACL thanks the Attorney-General for tabling the *Racing and Wagering Amendment Bill 2026*. **The Australian Christian Lobby supports the Bill being passed by the Legislative Assembly.**

¹ Queensland Government Statistician's Office. (2025). Australian Gambling Statistics, 40th edition, 1998–99 to 2023–24. Queensland Treasury. <https://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/issues/2646/australian-gambling-statistics-40th-edn-1998-99-2023-24.pdf>

² Alliance for Gambling Reform. (2022). Supplementary information for the Parliament of Australia Inquiry into Online Gambling. Inquiry into online gambling and its impacts on those experiencing gambling harm. <https://www.aph.gov.au/DocumentStore.ashx?id=8005f046-fd83-40b9-b0aa-de6009cc2f65&subId=725298>

³ Tabcorp. (2022). Tabcorp Submission: Inquiry into online gambling. Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs, <https://www.aph.gov.au/DocumentStore.ashx?id=53ab1048-a0e4-4a0a-9b15-50f7f6b55336&subId=726079>.

⁴ House of Representatives Parliament of Australia. (2023). "You Win Some, You Lose More", Report from the House of Representatives, Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs, https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/committees/reportrep/RB000159/toc_pdf/Youwinsome,youlosemore.pdf.