




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

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MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (4.30 pm): I rise to speak to the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. This is a bill that covers a number of different pieces of legislation. I would particularly like to address some of the gambling aspects. It does amend the way in which tax is calculated under the Gaming Machine Act 1992 for clubs with additional premises as well as amending the Keno Act 1996 to provide that the Keno licensee may enter into jackpot pooling arrangements with Keno licensees in other jurisdictions. I will come back to some of the detail of that in a moment.

On the day when the race that stops a nation, the Melbourne Cup, has been run we have all had a little bit of fun. I suspect that a few across the chamber have had a little bit of a flutter—some more of a flutter than others. It is a day when we celebrate this iconic Australian event. I do not mind my once-a-year flutter on the Melbourne Cup. I know some who are more regular racegoers do so more than me. I support responsible gambling where people have full control of their faculties and do not flog off the family home.

There is a matter, though, that gravely concerns me and that is the abuse of the advertising of sports betting where it is just shoved down people's throat. In the last few weeks we have seen the sports betting and the odds proliferating on our televisions through sporting events when young people in particular are watching and it is time that this was banned. I have received so many complaints from parents and, quite frankly, it is over the top. How can we expect people to take that token advice about responsible gambling when there is nothing responsible at all about the advertising that has been put down people's throats?

It has been acknowledged that there has been quite an increase in this particular type of sports betting advertising across Australia. I am advised that in 2012, 3,069 individual sports betting advertisements were relayed over all forms of media not including social media communications. These included 528 individual sports betting advertisements which were collectively played over 20,000 times on free-to-air TV and more frequently on pay TV. The value of sports betting advertising on television quadrupled between 2010 and 2012. According to a Parliamentary Library brief, an audit of eight AFL match broadcasts in 2012 identified a total of 50.5 marketing communications promoting seven wagering brands, totalling 4.8 minutes per match. Four live AFL matches held at two major stadiums in 2011 promoted nine wagering brands during an average of 59 marketing communications. An audit of two weeks of televised NRL and AFL programs in 2012 identified 72 gambling communications, mainly for corporate bookmakers, constituting 2.5 per cent of broadcast time.

I think it is timely to raise this because, as I said, I do not mind a flutter at Melbourne Cup time and I do not begrudge people enjoying access to their sports or responsible gaming. However, the advertisement of sports betting on our television has gotten out of hand. It is time it was banned during the time slots when young people in particular can watch it as it is ingraining habits in their way of life

which are not responsible. We do know that those who do not have control in regard to responsible gaming find it destroys lives. It is about balance. The advertising is not balanced and we need to see a change in that regard.

This bill seeks to amend the Gaming Machine Act to adjust tax methodology for the benefit of clubs that operate more than one premise. It has been forecast that this is likely to see a reduction in return to the government. It is intended, though, to balance the existing controlled approach to club expansions. Obviously this has been through the parliamentary committee process. There have been submissions lodged in this regard. Previously I have sought advice from the Attorney-General with respect to the gross turnover of pokies in my electorate. The turnover in gaming machine revenue in the Maroochydore electorate for 2014-15 was \$572,348,697. While a large proportion of that does return to people, a substantial amount still does not return to the pockets of people.

I also acknowledge that there are some excellent clubs that are involved in providing beautiful facilities that service my electorate and many other areas that are largely financed through their gaming machines in conjunction with terrific hospitality facilities. I know a number of my local clubs do an outstanding job and they give back to the community over and above that which is legally required as part of the formula of their gaming machine licence and that which is sent back to communities through the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. There are many good corporate citizens in this space and I acknowledge that and I am very grateful for them.

However, with the upsurge in gaming in our areas we should never be frightened to ask how we ensure those who are most vulnerable are not made more vulnerable. That is why I raise that issue in particular with respect to advertising. It is time, particularly with regard to the advertising we see on our multimedia platforms, for consideration to be given to those who are vulnerable and also to the next generation of young people who are learning from those adults around them about how to manage their money. Responsibility in gaming is being able to say no when people have gone too far and know it is taking children's money to pay for their food and to pay their rent. Responsibility is about governments also ensuring that on behalf of our communities a watchful eye is always reflected in good legislation and also with appropriate monitoring with enforcement where breaches are made or where it is inappropriate.