




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Casinos, Money-Laundering Allegations

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.06 am): The Palaszczuk government places a high priority on transparency, accountability and integrity. In fact, Queensland has one of the most robust—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members to my left!

Ms FENTIMAN: Queensland has one of the most robust casino regulatory frameworks in the country. Unlike other jurisdictions, the Queensland Office of Liquor and Gaming has a team of specialist inspectors permanently based within each of the state's four casinos. Queensland police have a dedicated presence within the Brisbane and Gold Coast casinos to investigate any criminal activity. That being said, the Palaszczuk government takes recent allegations of money laundering and integrity issues very seriously.

I can advise the House that the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation is currently undertaking appropriate investigations along with the Queensland police and AUSTRAC, which is the regulator responsible for assessing casino operators' compliance with Commonwealth anti money laundering legislative obligations. These investigations will consider the appropriateness and effectiveness of Star's due diligence processes and how Star approaches exclusions to ensure people are excluded from all properties where appropriate. This is in addition to the further compliance inquiries and activities relating to Queensland casinos that have commenced earlier this year following the Bergin inquiry into Crown Casino, and this work is continuing. I will continue to closely monitor the Finkelstein inquiry in Victoria and the related reviews being undertaken in Western Australia and New South Wales.

We have also recently collaborated with industry on a new gambling harm awareness campaign. The campaign, When gambling took over, shares the real stories of three Queenslanders who have overcome struggles with problem gambling. There is no doubt that gambling is a complex social issue that not only impacts the gambler themselves but their family, workplace and wider community. The harm can also have a ripple effect across all aspects of life with relationships, mental health and finances.

With a growing number of interstate and international gambling operators providing online services and the fast uptake of digital technology, now more than ever we need to make sure Queenslanders have the support they need to seek help as well as the tools to recognise the signs of problem gambling. That is why we have released our four-year gambling harm minimisation plan for Queensland which outlines the shared roles and responsibilities for government, industry and community to reduce gambling related harm, because we all have a role to play in supporting Queenslanders to gamble safely.

I want to thank the responsible gambling advisory committee for their valuable input and feedback on our plan. I encourage everyone to share the message that it is okay to ask for help. Free and confidential support is available right now.