

Question on Notice

No. 997

Asked on 28 August 2025

HON S BOLTON ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR INTEGRITY (HON D FRECKLINGTON)

QUESTION:

Will the Attorney-General advise the government's position on the phasing out of poker machines from pubs and clubs, as well the reported issue of Queensland youth, approximately 30 percent, illegally accessing online gambling platforms that according to the Australia Institute, has led to across Australia them spending an estimated \$231m annually?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Noosa for her question.

It is not the policy position of the Crisafulli Government to phase out gaming machines from Queensland pubs and clubs. This Government supports the development of a sustainable gambling industry and recognises the role of both Government and industry in minimising gambling harm.

Queensland continues to support the National Consumer Protection Framework for Online Wagering (NCPF), which provides a consistent and cohesive set of protections - applied to wagering service providers across federal and state lines - designed to safeguard all Australians, including minors, from harm associated with online wagering.

The National Framework creates a unified, robust safety net across Australia's online betting landscape. Key protections for minors include strict identity and age verification, a national Self-Exclusion system, and responsible gaming tools.

State and territory regulators enforce these standards locally and across borders, and collaborate with federal agencies like the Department of Social Security, Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), and AUSTRAC which provide policy, regulatory oversight, and additional enforcement mechanisms.

ACMA is responsible for enforcing the *Interactive Gambling Act 2001* (Cth), which bans illegal offerings such as online casino gaming, unauthorised in-play sports betting, and gambling services not licensed in Australia.

The Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation (OLGR) implements and enforces the NCPF protections within Queensland. Additionally, Queensland has prohibitions more stringent than the federal framework. For instance, inducements like bonus bets or referral rewards to open or continue betting accounts are banned in Queensland—we go beyond the federal minimum protections.

OLGR is also monitoring the Australian Government's response to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs' report on the *Inquiry into online gambling and its impacts on those experiencing harm*, which was released in June 2023.