



**Gambling Impact  
Society (NSW)**

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The Secretariat  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Room S1.61, Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

27 January 2004

Dear Sir,

***Re: Disability Discrimination Amendment Bill 2003***

As a community organisation concerned with those affected by gambling addictions and problem gambling we fully endorse the position of Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre in raising their objection to the proposed amendments to the Disability Discrimination Bill which will allow active discrimination against those affected by drug dependence. We are concerned equally that many of our members may also be affected by a drug dependence and such actions may increase their multiple problems.

We have recently worked with Shoalhaven City Council to ensure a comprehensive addiction policy is developed which includes drug, alcohol and gambling dependence after one of our members was negatively affected by this organisation's clearly discriminatory actions. We are in the process of developing a comprehensive education program for staff to create better awareness about this issue and underpin the policy with effective procedures. Any such amendment to this Disability Bill would clearly undermine our work in this field and we believe the work of many other community, health and welfare professionals.

We believe that the proposed amendment will only add to the discrimination of anyone affected by an addictive disorder and therefore fully support Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre's position with regards this amendment.

Yours faithfully,

Kate Roberts BA Hons. CQSW, CASS, MHPed  
Chairperson