



McGill University

International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors
Centre international d'étude sur le jeu et les comportements à risque chez les jeunes

March 12, 2012

Ms. Lyn Beverley

Committee Secretary
Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform
S1.107 Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms. Beverley,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide the committee with information that may be pertinent to their deliberations regarding the prevention and treatment of problem gambling.

During the past two decades my research, prevention and clinical work has focused on youth gambling and problem gambling issues. My research primarily has focused upon exploring the risk and protective factors associated with youth gambling and problem gambling. This research, both basic and applied, has been translated into a number of award-winning prevention initiatives currently being used in multiple jurisdictions around the world. I have testified before numerous commissions and legislative hearings in the U.S, Canada, Europe, South Africa and New Zealand. My consulting work has been used as a foundation for the development of programmatic research agendas, educational frameworks, and has been used to help develop responsible gambling social policies.

To assist the committee, attached are two recent chapters (authored by myself and colleagues) on youth gambling prevention and treatment from a recent 2011 book I co-edited: Derevensky, J., Shek, D., & Merrick, J. (Eds.) (2011). *Youth gambling problems: The hidden addiction*. Berlin: De Gruyter.

Sincerely,

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School/Applied Child Psychology
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