

## **Submission for Participation of Australians in online poker**

### ***a: the participation of Australians in online poker;***

I am a 42 year old public servant that has been playing online poker on and off for the last 7 years. I am married with 2 children and on average spend around 4 – 5 hours per week playing online poker. Due to family commitments I find it much easier and more enjoyable to play online than live cash games. I tend to play micro cash games where the maximum amount that can be played is \$10, I generally play games with a \$3 buy in or less. When I do run out of money I generally deposit \$20 into my account which usually lasts for a month or more. Although I have won games and tournaments it is not about the amount I win but more the pleasure of beating numerous players when there is money involved so that you know everyone is trying their best to win. I have found online poker games where there is no real money involved are not very enjoyable due to the fact that players don't have anything to lose so they play wildly and do not rely on skill and knowledge to win the game, rather they generally rely on blind luck.

### ***b: the nature and extent of any personal or social harms and benefits arising from participating in online poker; and***

I can understand the government's caution with allowing online poker to continue however I believe it is truly unfounded and would be hypocritical to shut down online poker while allowing casinos to continue unabated. Casino's generally have a \$5 minimum for general games such as black jack and roulette however the minimum buy in for poker at Perth's Crown Casino is \$50 when I have attended. As outlined in my first paragraph \$50 would generally allow me up to 2 & ½ months of online play whereas I would likely lose that in one night if I was to participate at the casino. Alcohol is easily accessible at the casino and encouraged due to the casino looking to profit where they can. I rarely drink at home while playing online poker as due to past experience I do not often win if I drink while playing. When playing at home I am present with my family and I can opt out of play while involved in a game when needed, therefore I can help with dinner, sit with my family to eat dinner and put my kids to bed. I would not be able to do any of those things if I had to attend a casino or poker league to continue playing.

In summary online poker for myself is an enjoyable pastime that doesn't affect my family, my work or my bank account. Please do not ban it as it will end the one hobby I enjoy and have been able to achieve some success in.

Thank you for your consideration.