

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
AUSTRALIAN TRANSACTION REPORTS AND ANALYSIS CENTRE**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-127

Subject: Money Laundering – Poker machine venues

Asked by: Stirling Griff

Question:

AUSTRAC has been warned numerous times that poker machine venues present a money laundering risk. When poker machines and other cash-based businesses closed for lockdown, did AUSTRAC prepare a plan to monitor spending in these sectors to help identify money laundering?

Answer:

AUSTRAC has been monitoring reporting received from its regulated businesses to identify any significant impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic and any other relevant matters, and provide actionable intelligence to law enforcement partners.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, AUSTRAC continues to supervise the gambling sector to ensure compliance with AML/CTF legislation.

Particular sectors within AUSTRAC's reporting population have been more significantly impacted during the pandemic due to ongoing restrictions and/or closures. Acknowledging that reporting entities are at the frontline in combating financial crime, AUSTRAC encouraged industry to monitor for new and emerging threats during the pandemic and to submit SMRs to AUSTRAC. (Refer to AUSTRAC website: <https://www.austrac.gov.au/smrs-during-covid-19>).

AUSTRAC recognises that extra support and guidance may be required for regulated businesses transitioning back to business-as-usual activities as COVID-19 restrictions ease. In anticipation, AUSTRAC reached out to various industry associations within the pubs and clubs sector, offering extra support and advice to help their members ensure they meet their AML obligations as they return to full operation. AUSTRAC continues to regularly engage with pubs and clubs during the pandemic, including through workshops and in partnership with industry associations to raise ongoing awareness of money laundering risks within the sector and their legislative obligations.