

Firstly, I cannot believe that Politicians want online poker banned in Australia, yet the Government allows all 18+ citizens to lose as much money as they like on Poker machine in clubs, casinos and bars. Little do most of these people know that these machines are designed to lose at a set percentage (7-12%).

- a. the participation of Australians in online poker;
- b. the nature and extent of any personal or social harms and benefits arising from participating in online poker; and
- c. whether the current regulatory approach, in particular, the recently amended *Interactive Gambling Act 2001*, is a reasonable and proportionate response to those harms and benefits.

In relation to online poker specifically, many Australian's involved in the game (many of these people also play legally in casinos) are not only enjoying the game and well in control a bankroll, but they are also making a living. Bringing money into the economy. Yet again, compared to poker machines, the two are not close.

Poker is for the most part a game of skill, with an element of luck involved. If the government says to me it's ok to play inside a casino, why not online – is this purely because you are missing out on revenue?

In relation to points A and B. I know have have met many business people that play poker, both online and in casinos. I can assure you these people are not the problem gamblers that you should be looking at.

The important point to note, is. Poker is a game which takes time, skill patience and focus. Poker machines, online betting and online casinos are yet again different. I do not for one minute see people losing millions of dollars through pokerstars for example, like I do with machines – yet you want to keep machines open and ban online poker? WHY? This makes no sense.

If you ran statistics on online poker, most Australians are rarely depositing. Using a bankroll to accumulate small gains and maintain a strict level of discipline.

The fact of the matter is, the government knows very little of how the online poker economy works. I do – as I have worked in the industry and know more online poker players than most people around the world.

That said, there is always going to be people who get out of control, although when It comes to this subject, I only know Australian citizens who are doing their ass on poker machines, inside casinos and rsl clubs. All things which the government considers healthy. Please.

I could educate every single politician on this matter. By the way, in relation to all of the above, many of these people work full time and pay tax. They are far better off playing online poker than the alternatives.

You would be amazed.

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