

To whom it may concern.

I am writing this submission to support the AOPA. I personally had a gambling problem in my life a few years ago.

I would go into the casino on a daily basis trying to beat the house and at times i did win money but going into the casino on a daily base you will lose all your winning and your saving with out a doubt.

I was broke and in debt and that's when i found online poker, i quickly realized this is a game of skill and the consistent winning player is the 1 that studies the game.

Since i have come across online poker i have stopped going to the casino on a daily basis and I am able to spend more time at home and help out.

I have stopped spending big sums of money, I have made 2 small deposits online of \$100 and have been able to play thousands of tournaments and play small field cash games as a hobby you can play as small as 1c/2c online were as in the casino the minimum poker cash games are \$1/\$2 and you would need \$200/300 to play.

The casinos minimum tournament buy in is \$100 were as online you can play as small as 10c.

With the casino offering free parking and free food and some money on your card on your next visit it entices you to go back to use what you have earned/spent on your previous visit.

And you end up spending more money then you should/can afford.

I find playing online poker relaxing and a social game were you can interact with other players around the world, were as when you playing a pokie machine your staring into a screen and have no clue if your going to win or lose with no interaction with anyone.

I think a lot of poker player want to do the right thing and follow the law and play on a regulated site and not on illegal dodgy sites, which will crop up all over the net if this law is passed.

Since I started playing online poker i have met new friends that enjoy the game as much as I do and we keep in contact.

I truly believe this could be a huge benefit to the Government and the Australian public if online poker was regulated and tax these companies instead of banning it and allowing unregulated sites to pop up and corner the market illegally, and leaving the players unguarded.

I hope my hobby is not taken away from me and forcing me to go back to a casino or play on unregulated sites.

There has been studies shown that the English model of online poker is beneficial to the players and the economy, which I believe Australia should follow in their footsteps.

Yours sincerely.