

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Written Questions from Senator Siewert - Gambling - Question 1

Question reference number: SQ20-000479

Senator: Rachel Siewert

Type of Question: Written. Hansard Page/s: N/A

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 03 July 2020

Question:

Is the Department aware of a link between harmful gambling behaviour and an increased risk in suicide and suicidal ideation?

If yes, what work is the Department undertaking to mitigate this risk, particularly as gambling venues being to re-open as COVID-19 restrictions relax?

Answer:

The Department of Social Services (the department) recognises the impact of gambling on consumers, their families and communities. Key measures to reduce the harm from gambling include consumer protection measures under the National Consumer Framework for online wagering (the National Framework), and financial counselling and support services for problem gambling, including the National Debt Helpline. The National Debt Helpline provides a single contact point for people to access financial counselling, either immediately on the phone or via referral to face-to-face services.

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Written Questions from Senator Siewert - Gambling - Question 2

Question reference number: SQ20-000480

Senator: Rachel Siewert

Type of Question: Written. Hansard Page/s: N/A

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 03 July 2020

Question:

Does the Department collect data on gambling related suicides?

If no, what are the barriers preventing the Department to collect this data?

Answer:

The Department of Social Services does not collect data on gambling-related suicides.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) undertook a pilot study to enhance the National Causes of Death dataset by capturing information on psychosocial risk factors for suicide deaths, referred to a coroner in the 2017 reference period. Gambling was one of the psychosocial risk factors. Data is currently being compiled for 2018 and 2019.

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ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Parl Com QoN - Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Written Questions from Senator Siewert - Gambling - Question 3

Question reference number: SQ20-000481

Senator: Rachel Siewert

Type of Question: Written. Hansard Page/s: N/A

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 03 July 2020

Question:

What is the status of the development of the National Self-Exclusion Register for online wagering?

Answer:

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) leads the procurement and implementation of the National Self Exclusion Register (the Register) as outlined by legislation.

The ACMA released a Request for Tender for the development and operation of the Register to organisations shortlisted in an earlier Request for Expressions of Interest process on 18 May 2020. Responses are due on 13 July 2020.