Gambling Reform package

On 20 November 2012, the Senate referred the gambling reform package of bills to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee, for inquiry and report by 27 November 2012. The bills were:

a. National Gambling Reform Bill 2012;
b. National Gambling Reform (Related Matters) Bill (No. 1) 2012; and
c. National Gambling Reform (Related Matters) Bill (No. 2) 2012.

On 30 September 2010 the Parliament agreed to establish a Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform. One of the terms of reference of that committee is to examine 'any gambling-related legislation that has been tabled in either House, either as a first reading or exposure draft'.

On 1 November 2012, the gambling reform package of bills was introduced into the House of Representatives, and the Joint Select Committee accordingly commenced an inquiry into the bills. The Joint Select Committee wrote to stakeholders inviting evidence, ultimately receiving and publishing 20 submissions. It held a public hearing on 13 November 2012, and tabled its report on 23 November 2012.

Upon receiving the reference, the Community Affairs Committee wrote to the Joint Select Committee, asking for an outline of the inquiry process that it had followed. The Community Affairs Committee considered the Joint Select Committee's response, inquiry evidence, and reviewed the Joint Select Committee's report. The Community Affairs Committee concluded that the Joint Select Committee had canvassed all the major stakeholders and thoroughly reviewed the issues before it. Accordingly, the Community Affairs Committee did not make a separate call for submissions, and endorses the conclusions and recommendations of the Joint Select Committee's report.

Senator Claire Moore
Chair