

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2010-11 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** 3

**Question No:**60

**Topic:** Productivity Commission Inquiry into Gambling

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Boyce** asked:

On Thursday February 24, Ms Carroll of the Department was asked why the Department had not made a submission to the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into gambling reform, in reply she said, "I would have to take on notice exactly whether we had an IDC or anything at that particular time."

Could the Department provide the "IDC or anything ", if it exists?

Could the Department detail the reasons and the process involved in the Department deciding not to make a submission to the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into gambling reform?

**Answer:**

There was no Interdepartmental Committee on problem gambling at the time of the Productivity Commission Inquiry into gambling reform.

The Australian Government asked the Productivity Commission to update its 1999 Inquiry with an additional focus on assessing the effectiveness of the harm minimisation measures put in place by state and territory governments since 1999. As the states and territories are primarily responsible for the regulation of most forms of gambling and delivery of support services for problem gamblers, they held much of the material relevant to the work of the Inquiry. Most of the information and evidence held by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs was either publicly available or available from other sources such that a Departmental submission would not be of substantial assistance to the Inquiry. An internal decision was made to not provide a submission.