

From: Wear, Greg
Sent: Thursday, 26 April 2001 1:56 PM
To: 'ecita.sen@aph.gov.au'
Subject: Interactive Gambling Bill 2001

To the Senate Committee reviewing the Interactive Gambling Bill 2001

I would like to draw your attention to our website www.bookies.com.au .
An obvious weakness of the proposed legislation is highlighted when one considers the nature of this website.

This site, when completed, will make it possible for on course licensed and bonded bookmakers to accept bets via the Internet or Interactive Voice Response (IVR) telephone from customers on or off a racecourse.

In developing this concept and relationships with the Bookmakers, their associations, the Racing Clubs, the Betting Control Boards, and the Racing Industry in general, we have been very mindful of developing a system that will promote a professional, secure site, meet all legislative requirements, and adopt sensible harm minimisation measures in relation to problem gambling.

We have been developing these systems in conjunction with the above stakeholders for over two years.

Our systems will create a "virtual betting ring" with a number of licensed Australian Bookmakers displaying live betting odds potentially alongside International Bookies offering odds on the same event.

Under the proposed Interactive Gambling Legislation, Australian Punters who visit the site to find the best value odds and bet with the Bookie of their choice will be barred from betting with reputable bonded licensed Australian Bookmakers and left with no option but to bet with International Bookmakers (of perhaps unknown reputation or licensing arrangement) at the same site.

This will (a) force Australian money off shore
(b) prevent the checks and balances that exist with Australian Bookmakers being adopted
(c) forces potential problem gamblers from Australia to bet in jurisdictions who may have little or no regard for the social welfare of problem gamblers.

We believe that Australian Punters must be allowed to wager with Australian Bookmakers.

Greg Wear
Director
Best Bookies Price Pty Ltd

* <http://www.bookies.com.au>