

Chapter 5

Broadcasting Services Amendment (Advertising for Sports Betting) Bill 2013

Background

5.1 On 15 May 2013, the Broadcasting Services Amendment (Advertising for Sports Betting) Bill 2013 was introduced into the Senate by Senator Richard Di Natale.¹ Pursuant to the committee's resolution of appointment, the bill was referred to the Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform for inquiry and report.² Given the overlapping subject matter, the committee decided to include the bill as part of its consideration of the areas covered by its reference on the advertising and promotion of gambling services in sport.

5.2 The committee notes that on 3 June 2013 this bill was introduced into the House of Representatives in identical terms by Mr Adam Bandt MP.³ The committee has considered Mr Bandt's bill through its consideration of Senator Di Natale's bill in this report.

The bill

5.3 The bill seeks to amend the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* to:

- ban the broadcast advertising of live odds for sports betting;
- ban the advertising of sports betting services on television and radio during children's viewing hours before 9pm; and
- ban the promotion of sports betting services by sporting commentators and their guests during sports broadcasts.⁴

Committee view

5.4 The committee has considered the bill in the context of its reference inquiry into the advertising and promotion of gambling services in sport. As indicated in Chapter 3, the committee noted the work underway by the government with commercial and subscription broadcasters to amend their existing industry codes of practice to address the promotion of live odds. The committee welcomes the government announcement on 26 May 2013 to ban the promotion of live odds during

1 *Journals of the Senate*, No. 145, 15 May 2013, p. 3932.

2 The resolution of appointment for the Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform directs the committee to inquire into and report on 'any gambling-related legislation that has been tabled in either House, either as a first reading or exposure draft'. *Journals of the Senate*, 30 September 2010, pp 141–142.

3 The Broadcasting Services Amendment (Advertising for Sports Betting) Bill 2013 [No.2]. *House of Representatives Hansard* 3 June 2013, p. 6.

4 Explanatory Memorandum, p. 3.

the broadcast of live sports matches and to ban generic gambling advertising during play. The effectiveness of these measures needs to be evaluated before considering further action such as legislation.

Recommendation 9

5.5 The committee recommends that the Broadcasting Services Amendment (Advertising for Sports Betting) Bill 2013 not be passed.

5.6 While signing this report as chair of the committee and supporting the majority of the report and recommendations, there are some issues the Chair does not agree with. These are outlined in dissenting comments which follow this report.

Mr Andrew Wilkie MP

Chair