

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

NOTICE OF MOTION

Dr Marisa Paterson MLA: I give notice that I shall move - That this Assembly:

(1) Notes that:

- a. Australia has one of the biggest gambling markets in the world per capita – from poker-machines to online gambling (including sports betting and horse racing);
- b. While the ACT Government has an extensive reform initiative to address harm from poker machines, it has limited levers to address the issue of online gambling and TV advertising;
- c. The regulation of online gambling and TV advertising (including sports betting, special events and horseracing) is the responsibility of the Commonwealth;
- d. The majority of online gambling companies are registered in the Northern Territory (NT);
- e. The ACT Government is working with the Commonwealth and state and territory governments to provide a harmonised approach to the regulation of online gambling through the National Consumer Protection Framework for Online Wagering;
- f. To provide a fairer taxation regime based on the location of the consumer rather than the location of the operator, most Australian states have implemented a point-of-consumption tax;
- g. In 2019, the Betting Operations Tax (BOT) was introduced in the ACT. This is a 15% point of consumption tax payable by all betting operators in the ACT;
- h. In 2019, 7.7% of the ACT's adult population bet on sports and special events within 12 months. Of those people, 38.5% were classified as at-risk gamblers, of which 3.2% were problem gamblers;
- i. The COVID pandemic lockdowns saw prolific advertising by the online gambling industry, with studies finding increases in online gambling and the numbers of Australians who opened a betting account during the pandemic;
- j. Gambling has become a large part of sport in Australia, largely due to increased and normalised advertising that targets certain groups in the community;
- k. More needs to be done to specifically address the harm that comes from online gambling in the ACT community; and

(2) Calls on the ACT Government to:

- a. Continue to work with and advocate to the Commonwealth and state and territory governments on the implementation of the National Consumer Protection Framework for Online Wagering;
- b. Conduct a review of the online gambling and advertising market and the impacts of this on the ACT;
- c. Investigate ACT revenue sources that can be used for harm minimisation activities for the ACT community that target online gambling;
- d. Consider ways to raise community awareness (particularly targeting groups in the population susceptible to online gambling harm) around the risks of online gambling;
- e. Report back to the Assembly by December 2023.

M. Paterson