

A LICENCE TO PUNT ITS-UNAUSTRALIAN.COM.AU Campaign eNewsletter

Dear Subscriber,

I am writing to inform you that the ***It's Un-Australian / Won't Work, Will Hurt*** campaign will now end as a result of the Federal Government's commitment to evidence based gambling reforms.

Recently, the Federal Government announced that it would not be pursuing the terms of the 'licence to punt' agreement, which required untested and uncosted mandatory pre-commitment technology to be installed on gaming machines across Australia by 2014.

Instead, the Gillard Government announced a gambling reform package that includes a robust trial of pre-commitment technology, increased funding for counselling and measures to control the online gambling environment.

Clubs Australia is pleased the Government now recognises that mandatory pre-commitment is not the solution to problem gambling. We believe that this position is the right outcome for Australia's clubs, their many employees, their millions of members and the communities that rely on them.

It is also the right outcome for problem gamblers who are now set to benefit from practical and effective gambling help tools such as increased access to counselling services.

The industry takes problem gambling very seriously. Clubs Australia is wholly committed to further developing sensible and targeted tools to assist the small minority of gamblers who are affected by problem gambling.

Independently, clubs are rolling out multi-venue self exclusion, a scheme that enables problem gamblers to voluntarily exclude themselves from multiple gaming venues. Self exclusion recognises that problem gamblers should be discouraged from entering gaming venues, not given a license to punt.

Clubs across the country will shortly be dismantling their campaign venue displays and will cease collecting signatures for the 'licence to punt' petition.

On behalf of the ***It's Un-Australian/ Won't Work, Will Hurt*** team, I would like to offer a sincere thank you to you and our thousands of supporters. The support we received at a community level for our grassroots campaign has certainly been overwhelming. Whether you signed the petition, attended a rally or brought your community's concerns to the attention of your local member, your efforts have made a difference.

Anthony Ball,
Executive Director,
Clubs Australia

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