



# 2019 FEDERAL ELECTION POLICY PLATFORM

## REDUCE THE HARM CAUSED BY SPORTS GAMBLING

### 1. IMPLEMENT ALL OF THE MEASURES IN THE NATIONAL CONSUMER PROTECTION FRAMEWORK

The National Consumer Protection Framework represents a historic opportunity to implement significant harm reduction measures already agreed to by state and territory governments. These minimum standards apply to all online wagering providers and include key measures such as a single click self-exclusion program and banning bookmakers from supplying credit.

**The Alliance calls on the next federal Parliament to ensure these measures are implemented in full and in a timely manner to realise their full benefit to the community.**

### 2. BAN SPORTS GAMBLING ADVERTISING ACROSS ALL BROADCAST PLATFORMS INCLUDING TV, RADIO AND ONLINE

Gambling advertising is out of control. In 2017 the sports gambling industry spent \$253.2 million aggressively advertising gambling, up from just \$89.7 million in 2011. The 'siren to siren' advertising ban has simply resulted in the ads moving from one family viewing time slot to another. Children are still exposed to alarming levels of advertising - they are learning the odds before they learn the rules of the game. Three quarters of 8-16-year-olds already believe gambling is a normal or common part of sport. This is a deeply concerning trend.

Australia led the way when it banned tobacco advertising, we can do it again to prevent today's kids from being groomed into tomorrow's gamblers.

**The Alliance calls on the next federal Parliament to ban all sports gambling advertising on TV, radio and online.**

### 3. BAN CREDIT CARD USAGE WITH ONLINE BOOKMAKERS

The National Consumer Protection Framework prohibits online bookmakers from providing credit, and the UK government is currently exploring a prohibition of credit cards with online bookmakers. The Alliance calls for a similar prohibition in Australia to ensure gamblers are not readily accessing expensive credit. Credit card deposits into online bookmaker accounts are treated as a cash advance so the fees are already high and the credit expensive. After the Hayne Royal Commission hearings examined a case study involving excessive credit provision to an addicted gambler, the major banks have all been examining measures to prevent harm.

**The Alliance calls on the next federal Parliament to ban credit cards being used to gamble online.**

## IMPROVE POLITICAL INTEGRITY & PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

### 4. ESTABLISH A ROYAL COMMISSION INTO THE GAMBLING INDUSTRY AND THE \$24 BILLION IN ANNUAL GAMBLING LOSSES NATIONALLY

Given the scale of the damage done by gambling, the next parliament should establish a Royal Commission into the industry.

The last serious investigation of the gambling industry was a federal Productivity Commission that concluded in 2011. Since then, whistleblowers have come forward to Andrew Wilkie and media outlets detailing a string of appalling behaviour. Crown has been exposed for supplying gamblers with picks to illegally force machines to bet continuously. Woolworths owned ALH pubs have been caught supplying gamblers with alcohol and directing staff to track and targeted vulnerable gamblers. These activities are likely to be the tip of the iceberg that a Royal Commission could fully investigate.

Since 2011 the online sports gambling industry has doubled in size, warranting its inclusion in a Royal Commission.

Finally, Victorian research since the Productivity Commission report has revealed that harm to health caused by 'low' and 'moderate' risk gambling is, in total, greater than that experienced by high risk or severe gambling. This change in our understanding of gambling harm warrants a re- assessment of the industry and its societal costs. Our understanding of gambling harm as a public health issue requires a wider scope than the Productivity Commission.

**The Alliance calls for the next federal Parliament to begin a Royal Commission into the gambling industry and gambling harm.**

## 5. KEEP GAMBLING MONEY AND INFLUENCE OUT OF OUR DEMOCRACY

The gambling industry is corrupting our democracy through millions of dollars worth of disclosed and undisclosed political donations, direct ownership of poker machine venues by the Australian Labor Party, politicians and their advisors moving straight from parliament to the gambling industry, and industry-led campaigns targeting reform efforts as seen in the Tasmanian, South Australian, Victorian and New South Wales state elections. It's time break the link between the gambling industry and politics, and restore trust in our democracy.

**The Alliance calls for the next federal Parliament to ban political donations from any gambling license holder, including Board or committee members of a organisation with a gambling licence, or their peak bodies, and ban gambling as a source of funding for political parties.**



**ALLIANCE FOR  
GAMBLING REFORM**

**For more information,**

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