Submission re Online and Overseas Gambling in Australia

* I wish to complain about the unfair and underhanded practices of Australian online bookmakers in restricting or closing accounts of winning punters. These practises have the following negative social effects on the Australian community:
* These practices are predatory. They encourage losing punters to lose even more, since they will eventually be the only punters allowed to bet. The client base seeming to be desired by these corporate bookmakers includes gambling addicts, retirees, the young, the gambling naïve, and those with mental and personality disorders.
* These practices are unfair. Accounts of long term losers are closed if they have a number of recent wins, thereby denying them the chance to recoup losses.
* The situation for banned punters directly encourages them to bet overseas, since they are not allowed to bet to achieve best betting odds in Australia. I have been informed that it is easy to bet in Asia from Australia. For this reason I am against any overseas gambling ban which would be difficult or impossible to implement.
* These practices are unfair to oncourse bookmakers who must bet as a condition of their license to lose a certain amount. On course bookmakers are subject to supervision by gambling stewards, there is no such system in place online.
* Many of these bookmakers are registered in small state or off-shore jurisdictions where financial supervision is weak or non-existent. Some smaller operators have collapsed, with punters losing any money held by the operator.
* Many online corporate bookmakers in Australia are subsidiaries of oversea, often British companies and profits are repatriated out of Australia.
* Because of the financial clout of the corporate bookmakers, the relationship between them and racing authorities and racing media is cosy and incestuous. Punters are of the opinion that these have been bought off. This is why concerns of punters are habitually supressed and downplayed.

**My solution:**

* All corporate bookmakers registered nationally and centrally in Australia.
* Must bet to lose a set amount on all racing events in Australia as presently applies to NSW races.
* All TABs reduce takeout to maximum 10% (including rounding) on win and place bets.
* NO overseas gambling ban which would criminalize personal choice and be impossible to implement.

Thank you

[Name withheld]