

Dear Mr O'Farrell and Mr Morrison,

The current business model of bookmaking in Australian is a well-known one by punters. They ban winners and welcome losers and problem gamblers. This model was adopted when U.K bookmakers took over Australian agencies and is now the standard at all local Corporate bookmakers and The TAB'S.

It makes me furious that they now want to ban off shore bookmakers. The only people who are using off shore bookmakers are people who cannot get a fair go from companies licensed in Australia. They have had their accounts closed or limited to pennies. I literally cannot bet more than \$50 with the TAB or the four biggest corporate bookmakers in Australia.

What they are really asking for is to have competition removed so they can have more control and a bigger piece of the profits.

Problem gamblers are not the people who turn to these overseas sites, why would they? They are treated like kings here and given offers, incentives and bonuses from all the local bookmakers in the hope that they will continue to lose even more money.

An example of how disgusting the behavior of the Australian licensed bookmakers is; before writing this letter, I checked my maximum bet with one of the biggest bookmakers on a standard soccer market, it was \$50. I asked a friend of mine, (someone who I am actually concerned about and someone whom I know has little self-control when it comes to gambling) to check their maximum bet for the same market and it was \$10,000. No that it not a misprint.

It is one of the most despicable business models I have ever heard of. It discriminates, it has no ethical or moral standpoints and it targets those whom apparently the government is most concerned about. All the while these companies have the audacity to claim that they do care about problem gamblers. Yes they care alright, they care to the point where that is the only type of customer they want.

The most well known of these so-called offshore bookmakers that the Australian bookmakers would try to have you believe are the enemy are in fact very good. They will clearly state what the maximum bet is on every market. For example the may have a tennis match market where the maximum bet is 2855. This amount is the same for everyone and anyone, after taking a bet they then make any adjustments that they wish to the prices and then the will offer the bet again and again any one can come along and bet up to the same amount.

The bottom line is that if The Australian bookmakers operated in this manor, then there would be no need for anyone to use offshore books. But of course they do not and now that want to have their cake and eat it too.

Banning offshore bookmakers is not the answer. That simply punishes the people who have been unjustly treated by the bookmakers in Australia and removes competition allowing them to offer worse price offers and products.

The local Bookmakers have done nothing to deserve or warrant the removal of competition and they certainly don't deserve it if they are not prepared to change their practices and start offering a fair and reputable product that we in a country like Australia deserve.

My motivation for writing this letter is obviously because I like many punters have been treated poorly and discriminated against, but I also have concern for people who are not as knowledgeable or as disciplined when it comes to their betting habits. These people are the targets of these companies and If the government is seriously concerned about them then I implore you to consider.

1. Reduce and remove gambling adds during sporting competitions.
2. Introduce a minimum bet rule that is the same and applies to everyone. A number that has been mentioned by others and seems fair is take a bet to win \$2000 (e.g a bet of \$2000 at odds of 2.00 or a bet of \$400 at odds of 6.00)
3. Remove all these micro markets that encourage unnecessary gambling, such as one over bets in cricket and winner of the next game or point in tennis. It is the undisciplined person that falls into the trap of being encouraged to bet at every moment of the event. What is interesting is that the best known of the offshore books focus on the match and half time markets and don't offer these silly short term bets and it is the U.K owned Australian licensed bookmakers that do.

It may have been The TAB and Corporate bookmakers that have asked for this inquiry. They of course know that their practices are not common knowledge to those who don't bet regularly or those that are indeed their ideal (losing) customer. They also know that as individuals the regular person who likes to bet doesn't have much of a voice. I thank you for accepting letters from the public and I am very confident that you will be receiving many others like mine.

I hope that you can see through all the smoke and mirrors and that this inquiry actually looks at the real problem, which is the despicable behavior of Australian license bookmakers and agencies. The irony is that they have created the problem they are complaining about.

We all want to bet with Australian companies, but they pick and choose their customers, close accounts, reject bets and discriminate. They force people who are not losing enough in their eyes to bet off shore with Bookmakers who actually offer a fair product to all. If offshore betting is removed, literally thousands of Australians will not be able to place a bet anywhere, unless of course they agree to lose enough and not dare to ever win.

I would be happy to discuss any related matters, so please feel free to contact me.

Regards,

[name withheld]