Working with Women Alliance

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
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24.07.2026

Subject: Interactive Gambling Amendment Bill 2026 and National Self-exclusion Register Amendment Bill 2026

Dear Environment and Communications Legislation Committee,

The Working with Women Alliance (WwWA) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the *Interactive Gambling Amendment (Gambling Reform) Bill* 2026 and *National Self-exclusion Register (Cost Recovery Levy) Amendment* Bill 2026.

WwWA is one of the five National Women's Alliances funded through the Office for Women to provide evidence-based policy advice to Government on women's safety and economic equality. WwWA has a strong interest in gambling reform because gambling-related harm has significant gendered impacts, including through financial insecurity and family and domestic violence.

While the proposed reforms are a welcome acknowledgement of gambling-related harms, they fall short of the comprehensive recommendations made in the *You win some, you lose more: Inquiry into online gambling and its impacts on those experiencing gambling harm* (the Murphy report). The Murphy report is clear: Australia's current regulatory system is weak and continues to place the onus on individuals to protect themselves from gambling harms that can be as consequential as family violence and death by suicide. With four in five Australians supporting a total ban on gambling advertising, a more ambitious reform agenda, that adopts the recommendations of the Murphy report is both justified and necessary.

WwWA also echoes the recommendations made in *Unlocking the Prevention Potential*, the 2024 Rapid Review (the Review) of Prevention Approaches, which identifies gambling as an industry that is particularly well positioned to prevent and reduce family, domestic and sexual violence (FDSV). The Review recommends stronger restrictions leading to a total ban on gambling advertising and calls on governments to examine electronic gaming machine density and online gambling in relation to DFSV prevalence. The timing of this legislation committee is occurring alongside government consultation on the Second Action Plan under the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032* (the National Plan) and should be understood as part of a whole-of-government approach to violence prevention.

WwWA are particularly concerned children and partners of people who gamble, who are subject to gambling-related family and domestic violence and economic abuse. Problem gambling typically impacts up to six other people indirectly, which equates to approximately 3 million affected Australians. Where gambling is present in a family, there is up to a 30% higher risk of family violence. In line with Australia's commitments under the National Plan, a total ban on gambling advertising is necessary to safeguard the community from indirect gambling-related harms.

We thank the committee for the opportunity to provide input and look forward to continued engagement on these important reforms.

Yours sincerely,

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Executive Director

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