



# Department of Justice and Community Safety

Secretary

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Our ref: 25103542

Your ref: COR 2022 006877

Kate Sanderson  
Coroner's Registrar  
Coroners Court of Victoria

By email: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms Sanderson

Thank you for your letter dated 11 August 2025, in relation to recommendations made in  
Coroner Judge Cain's finding without inquest into the death of [REDACTED]

I would like firstly to acknowledge the tragic circumstances of [REDACTED] death, and  
provide the following response to Coroner Cain's recommendation to the Department of  
Justice and Community Safety:

Recommendation:

*The Department of Justice and Community Safety implement Recommendation 17 c  
and d of the Rapid Review, namely:*

*17. The Commonwealth and state and territory governments to work with industries  
that are well positioned to prevent DFSV [Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence],  
including homicide, with a focus on alcohol and gambling industries in addition to  
media and pornography. This includes reviewing and strengthening alcohol and  
gambling regulatory environments to prioritise the prevention of gender-based  
violence. This should include: \*\*\**

*c. stronger restrictions leading to a total ban on advertising of gambling  
(Commonwealth and states and territories);*

*d. examining the density of electronic gaming machines, and use of online  
gambling, in relation to the prevalence of DFSV across different populations  
and communities (Commonwealth and states and territories).<sup>1</sup>*

Response:

An alternative to the Coroner's recommendation will be implemented.

## **Banning the advertising of gambling**

Regarding implementing stronger restrictions leading to a total ban on advertising of gambling, the regulation of gambling advertising crosses both Victorian and Commonwealth government jurisdictions.

In 2018, Victoria introduced a ban<sup>2</sup> on static betting advertising within 150 metres of schools, on public transport infrastructure and on public roads and road infrastructure to prevent the normalisation of gambling and limit the exposure of advertising to vulnerable people, including children and young people.

Television, radio and online advertising (including social media) are predominantly the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government. As such, the Victorian Government is unable to achieve a total ban on gambling advertising independently of the Commonwealth Government.

You may be aware that the Commonwealth House of Representatives' Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs held an inquiry into online gambling and its impacts on those experiencing gambling harm in late 2022. The final report, *You win some, you lose more*, was tabled in the Commonwealth Parliament in June 2023 and includes, among other things, a recommendation for a 3-year phased approach to implement a comprehensive ban on all forms of advertising for online gambling.

While the Commonwealth is yet to respond to this report, the Victorian Government in its third action plan to end family and sexual violence, covering 2025 to 2027, has committed to working with the Commonwealth Government and other state and territory governments to develop a national strategy to reduce harm from online gambling.

## **Examining the density of electronic gaming machines and the use of online gambling**

Victoria maintains a statewide cap on the number of electronic gaming machines, which is in place until 2042. This cap limits the overall number of machines and their distribution across local communities.

With respect to examining gambling products in relation to the prevalence of DFSV, the Victorian Government supports further research into gambling harm, including co-occurring conditions and the impact on diverse communities.

The department's gambling harm research priorities for 2025–2028 broadly cover gambling products and environments, community impacts of gambling, gambling harm prevention, industry marketing, and recovery and support.<sup>3</sup> Each year, the department funds a range of research projects to address these priorities.

Guided by these thematic priorities, the research program will:

- support examination of environmental factors that undermine or support attempts to avoid or reduce gambling harm
- further understanding of how gambling harm intersects with other health issues

- further understanding of the health and social costs of gambling in Victoria
- identify effective approaches to address social and commercial determinants of gambling harm.

This research program will add to the existing evidence base examining links between the availability of gambling products and determinants of gambling harm, including those in common with gender-based violence. It is important that pre-existing evidence is considered, and future research is based on gaps or needs analysis.

Should you require further information, please contact Ms Simone Cusack, Executive Director, Gaming and Liquor, [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



**Emma Cassar PSM**

Secretary

31/10/2025

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<sup>1</sup> Ms Elena Campbell et al. [Unlocking the prevention potential: Accelerating action to end domestic, family and sexual violence](#) (August 2024), 24.

<sup>2</sup> Amendments made to the *Gambling Regulation Act 2003* by the *Gambling Legislation Amendment Act 2018*.

<sup>3</sup> Department of Justice and Community Safety. [Gambling harm prevention research priorities 2025-2028](#). February 2025.