



Online wagering industry welcomes National Self-Exclusion Register

Attributable to Stephen Conroy, Executive Director, Responsible Wagering Australia

Responsible Wagering Australia, the peak body representing Australia's online wagering industry welcomes the passage of the *Interactive Gambling Act Amendment (National Self-exclusion Register) 2019* through the Federal Parliament today.

This legislation enables the establishment of a National Self-Exclusion Register for online wagering in Australia, allowing problem gamblers to effectively exclude themselves from wagering with all Australian-licensed online wagering service providers.

RWA's Members already offer world-leading responsible gambling tools and protections for consumers, including the ability to Self-Exclude on an individual operator basis and other effective measures such as short-term time outs, deposit limits and detailed activity history.

The most recent independent academic research has found that online wagering has the least likelihood of harm developing of any form of gambling with other forms of gambling almost always being the original source of gambling problems when they do occur.¹ This important legislation, passed with the strong support of industry, will help cement the position of online wagering in Australia as the world leader in responsible gambling and provide an important further safeguard to the small proportion of problem gamblers in the Australian population.

RWA has been amongst the most prominent supporters of the National Consumer Protection Framework for online wagering and we congratulate the Morrison Government for securing the passage of its landmark element, the National Self-Exclusion Register. RWA and its Members look forward to assisting the Government to roll the Register out as soon as possible.

5 December 2019

Media Contact: James Duncan, 0457 758 018, James.Duncan@responsiblewagering.com.au

About Responsible Wagering Australia: RWA is the independent peak body representing the Australian-licensed online wagering industry. RWA aims to ensure Australia has the best conducted, socially responsible wagering industry in the world. RWA's Members include the leading online wagering companies bet365, Betfair, BetEasy, Sportsbet, Ladbrokes, Neds and Unibet. Collectively these companies employ more than 1000 Australians, pay more than \$250 million in fees to sporting and racing bodies and \$100 million in wagering taxes annually.

¹ Gainsbury, S. et al., *Isolating the impact of specific gambling activities and modes on problem gambling and psychological distress in internet gamblers*, BMC Public Health, October 2019.