

ILLEGAL OFFSHORE GAMBLING: A GROWING THREAT

November 2025



OFFSHORE GAMBLING
IS WORTH \$3.9b
AND IS NOW 36% OF
THE AUSTRALIAN
MARKET



RACING
LOSSES BETWEEN
\$110-135m
EACH YEAR



STATE AND TERRITORY
GOVERNMENTS WILL
LOSE \$2b OVER THE
NEXT 5 YEARS



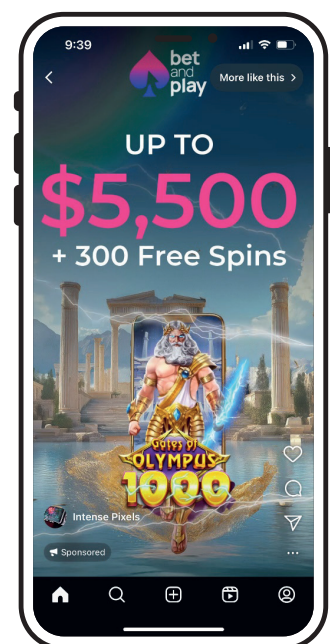
1 IN EVERY 5
DOLLARS SPENT
ON SPORTS BETTING
GOES OFFSHORE

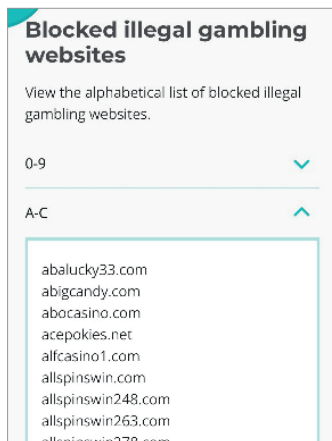


OFFSHORE
MARKET TO REACH
\$5b BY 2029

FUELLED BY BANNED PRODUCTS, LOOPHOLES AND AGGRESSIVE TACTICS

- **Illegal offshore gambling sites offer no consumer protections, no oversight, no guarantee that winnings will be paid out** and no avenues for recourse when something goes wrong.
- **Illegal platforms out-compete** Australian-licensed and regulated operators by paying no tax and don't invest in consumer protection – **48% of players cite better odds and offers as the biggest drivers**
- **A staggering 50% of offshore players are on BetStop**, undermining important consumer protections
- Heavy investment in influencer marketing makes illegal operators look legitimate - **nearly 50% of players can't spot them**
- **A quarter of illegal offshore online gambling spend goes to illegal products** like online casino and live in play betting





AUSTRALIA'S ENFORCEMENT GAPS ARE BEING EXPLOITED

- The ACMA has blocked over a thousand illegal gambling sites, yet operators quickly reappear under new domains
- **Without real-time coordination with payment processors or powers to penalise offenders, these criminal enterprises operate unchecked**
- Their anonymity, including the use of crypto betting, enables money laundering and match-fixing, threatening the integrity of Australian sport and racing

THE SOLUTION: COOPERATION IS KEY

Tackling the illegal offshore market will require collaboration, **not only from government and regulators, but also from banks, technology platforms, Australian-licensed and regulated wagering service providers and sporting bodies**, to close enforcement gaps and keep Australians betting within the licensed system

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Sustainable & Competitive Onshore Market**
Ensure taxation, marketing and consumer protection reform minimises harm without driving more betting offshore
- 2. Coordinated Blacklisting & Blocking Framework**
Establish a National Illegal Gambling Blacklist Platform to centralise illegal domains, mirror sites and app IDs in one database managed by the ACMA for rapid enforcement
- 3. Platform Blocking & Content Removal**
Empower the eSafety Commissioner to issue binding notices for removal, link deletion, app removal and ISP blocking of illegal gambling content
- 4. Payments Blocking – Banks & Providers**
Require banks and payment providers to block transactions linked to operators listed on the National Illegal Gambling Blacklist Platform
- 5. Payments Blocking – Crypto**
AUSTRAC to issue guidance to crypto exchanges to detect and report gambling-linked wallets
- 6. Payments Blocking – BetStop Integration**
Integrate the National Self-Exclusion Register with payment monitoring to block transactions from self-excluded individuals to illegal operators
- 7. Consumer Awareness – Certification Scheme**
Introduce a national certification scheme via industry to help consumers identify licensed operators and promote safe betting
- 8. Consumer Awareness – National Campaign**
Deliver a nationwide campaign alongside the blacklist rollout to educate consumers on checking site legality and safety
- 9. Digital Advertising Verification**
Develop a Gambling Advertiser Verification API for search engines, social platforms and digital advertisers to block illegal ads
- 10. Sports/Racing Content Policing**
Ensure official Australian sports and racing data is supplied only to licensed betting operators
- 11. International Cooperation**
Negotiate bilateral enforcement agreements and MOUs with major offshore jurisdictions for mutual crackdowns