

Relationships Australia welcomes moves to prohibit use of credit in online gambling.

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[Relationships Australia](#) welcomes the Government's announcement today that it will introduce legislation to prohibit the use of credit cards on online gambling platforms.

"The expansion of online gambling has been rapid, sustained and escalating, and requires a multi-pronged strategy to prevent gambling-related harm", said Mr. Nick Tebbey, National Executive Officer, Relationships Australia.

Members of the Relationships Australia Federation have been providing Gambling Help Services for 30 years. The services provide counselling, education and financial counselling to people experiencing gambling-related harm. In doing so, Relationships Australia works closely with those who participate in online gambling, as well as their families.

"Gambling-related harm almost always includes a complex mix of health, financial, relationships and social issues that span family violence, mental health issues, substance misuse and homelessness", Mr. Tebbey said.

The proposed restriction on the use of credit cards for online gambling will make a significant contribution to minimising harm, and will bring online gambling platforms into line with other forms of gambling where the use of credit is already banned.

"We acknowledge the government's commitment to acting decisively on this critical social issue and support the development of an overarching public health approach which takes into account the myriad issues that can lead to, and compound, harm arising from online gambling", said Mr. Tebbey. "A consistent and fearless commitment to action is necessary to ensure the regulatory framework remains appropriate in response to emerging technologies and products."

Relationships Australia looks forward to the report of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs' inquiry into online gambling and its impacts on those experiencing gambling harm later this year, and to working with government to develop and implement a robust and multi-faceted strategy to address this public health issue.

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