

2000

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

BOOKMAKERS ACT 1985

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

**REVOCATION OF INSTRUMENTS IMPOSING A MAXIMUM NUMBER OF
SPORTS BETTING LICENSES THAT MAY BE GRANTED**

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Outline

The *Bookmakers Act 1985* (the Act) governs the activities of bookmakers in the Australian Capital Territory.

Part IIIA of the Act provides for the conduct and control of sports betting. In particular, the legislation empowers the Minister to determine the licensing arrangements.

Section 39D of the Act provides that the Minister may determine the number of sports betting licences that may be granted. The word 'may' is taken to be discretionary, not obligatory.

As a result of the recent National Competition Policy review of the *Bookmakers Act 1985*, the Government has accepted the recommendation that there is no justification to restrict the number of licenses that may be issued. Additional licenses should only be granted to those applicants who fully satisfy the legislated requirements.

This instrument revokes previous instruments that set the maximum number of licenses that may be granted and clarifies the situation as to there being no limit to the number of licences that may be issued.

Financial Implications

Each licence shall be issued for a period of 15 years. The licences have an annual licence fee of \$5,000 for a sole trader or \$10,000 for a syndicate or company.

Sports betting turnover reached \$96m in 1998-99 and generated direct revenue to Government of some \$700,000.

It is expected that the granting of additional sports betting licenses would result in additional significant levels of revenue and increased economic activity and employment.