



Melbourne Debating Academy Round 1

That we should prohibit gambling advertisements

Background:

Gambling, such as betting, allows people over 18 to risk their money on the chance that something will occur. The less likely the event, the higher the possible return. Nowadays, there are a host of ways people can gamble, including on sports, in casinos and in certain online contexts. Lifeline says that 70% of Australians participate in some form of gambling each year.

Currently in Australia, gambling businesses are allowed to advertise themselves (with some restrictions, which might be worth researching). This has sparked a great deal of debate because some people are unhappy with gambling advertisements in the public domain, whereas others argue that businesses should be free to advertise themselves. It is also important to note that gambling advertisement restrictions differ based on the platform or country you are in. It may be worth researching countries other than Australia or even states other than Victoria, as legislation can differ between states as well.

Gambling advertisements themselves can take on various forms, including radio broadcasts, YouTube ads, online advertisements, Television advertisements and more. You may wish to consider in your modelling and case construction the mediums through which gambling advertising can be communicated.

You need to think critically about the advantages and disadvantages that surround gambling advertisements and consider how you can frame these points as arguments.

Currently, the government places restrictions on how gambling advertisements are delivered; ever heard the words *gamble responsibly?* – there are more examples that just this, however. You may wish to consider how these various restrictions affect our perception of gambling advertisements, and thus, the need to prohibit them (or not).

Key questions for consideration:

- Who are the stakeholders in this debate?
- Who is helped and harmed by gambling? In what ways?
- What benefits are there to gambling advertisements and what are the harms of it?
- Why might some people want gambling advertisements banned?
- What are the key burdens in this debate?
- What does it mean to “prohibit” gambling advertisements?

Resources:

<https://responsiblegambling.vic.gov.au/resources/gambling-victoria/gambling-advertising/#:~:text=In%20September%202017%2C%20the%20Victorian,infrastructure%20like%20stations%20and%20bridges>

<https://adstandards.com.au/issues/gambling-advertising>

<https://acma.gov.au/rules-gambling-ads>

<https://www.campaignlive.co.uk/article/gambling-ads-banned/1687126>

<https://tvtonight.com.au/2017/04/debate-rages-over-gambling-ad-ban-proposal.html>

<https://www.casino.org/news/aussie-politician-wants-gambling-ad-ban-as-spending-soars/>

<https://debatewise.org/2886-gambling-and-casinos/>