

UP FRONT

TACKLING THE PROBLEMS OF GAMBLING

Research into the causes, consequences and treatment of problem gambling should be funded as a National Priority Health Area, according to a report from the Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform.

The report of the committee's inquiry into the prevention and treatment of problem gambling also says each of the states and territories should set performance targets for reducing problem gambling, and report on their progress to the Council of Australian Governments.

The committee said more research is needed to improve the national knowledge base on problem gambling and its causes, which it said can be varied and complex.

To help tackle this complexity, the committee recommended the federal government fund a national helpline for primary health care professionals to assist them to identify and refer patients who present with gambling problems.

The committee also reiterated its call for a national independent research institute on gambling, as originally proposed by the Productivity Commission and recommended in the committee's previous two reports.



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PROBLEM SOLVING: *More research needed on gambling*



AAP/ONE

EQUALITY: *Half of parliaments led by women*

WOMEN TAKE THE CHAIR

Women now make up exactly half of the presiding officers in Australian parliaments after the recent election of Vicki Dunne as Speaker of the ACT Legislative Assembly following the territory's election in October.

Ms Dunne took on the role not long after Anna Burke (pictured above) became only the second woman to be elected Speaker of the federal House of Representatives.

The other presiding officers are: Robin Adams (Speaker, Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly), Lyn Breuer (Speaker, South Australian House of Assembly), Shelley Hancock (Speaker, New South Wales Legislative Assembly), Kezia Purick (Speaker, Northern Territory Legislative Assembly), Fiona Simpson (Speaker, Queensland Parliament), and Sue Smith (President, Tasmanian Legislative Council).

REPS PRACTICE UPDATED

The sixth edition of *House of Representatives Practice* has been launched in hard copy and online.

House of Representatives Practice is the comprehensive and authoritative text on the procedure and practice of the House.

It includes guidance on all of the major activities of the House including legislation, motions, committees and the control and conduct of debate, as well as extensive background information and definitions.

The role of government, opposition, individual members and the Presiding Officers is also detailed to act as a reference for all parliamentarians and members of the public.

The 6th Edition was the first new edition of the manual released since 2005. Other editions were released in 1981, 1987, 1997 and 2001.

Chapter downloads of the 6th Edition of *House of Representatives Practice* are available at the Australian Parliament website and printed copies are available to order online or for sale in the Parliament House shop.

To access *House of Representatives Practice* online, visit: www.aph.gov.au/practice

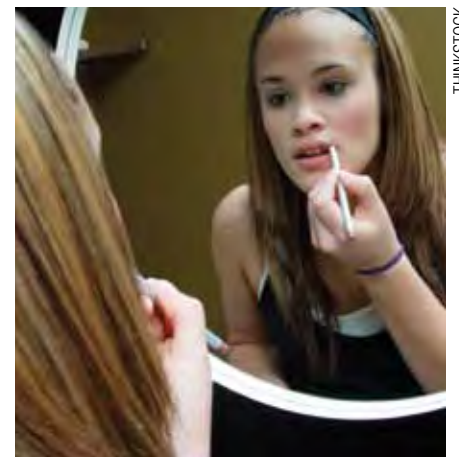
IMAGE DEBATE ONLINE

Issues surrounding body image and the sexualisation of young girls were hot topics on social media recently when the w.comm parliamentary group held its first live Twitter chat.

W.comm chair Lisa Baker, from the WA Legislative Assembly, used the two-hour social media forum to hear a variety of views from participants about what action they would like to see MPs take to ensure women have a healthy body image.

W.comm would like to see regulations put in place to make it compulsory to disclose any digital alterations made to images.

For more information visit: www.wcomm.org



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CYBER SAY: *Body image forum sparks interest*