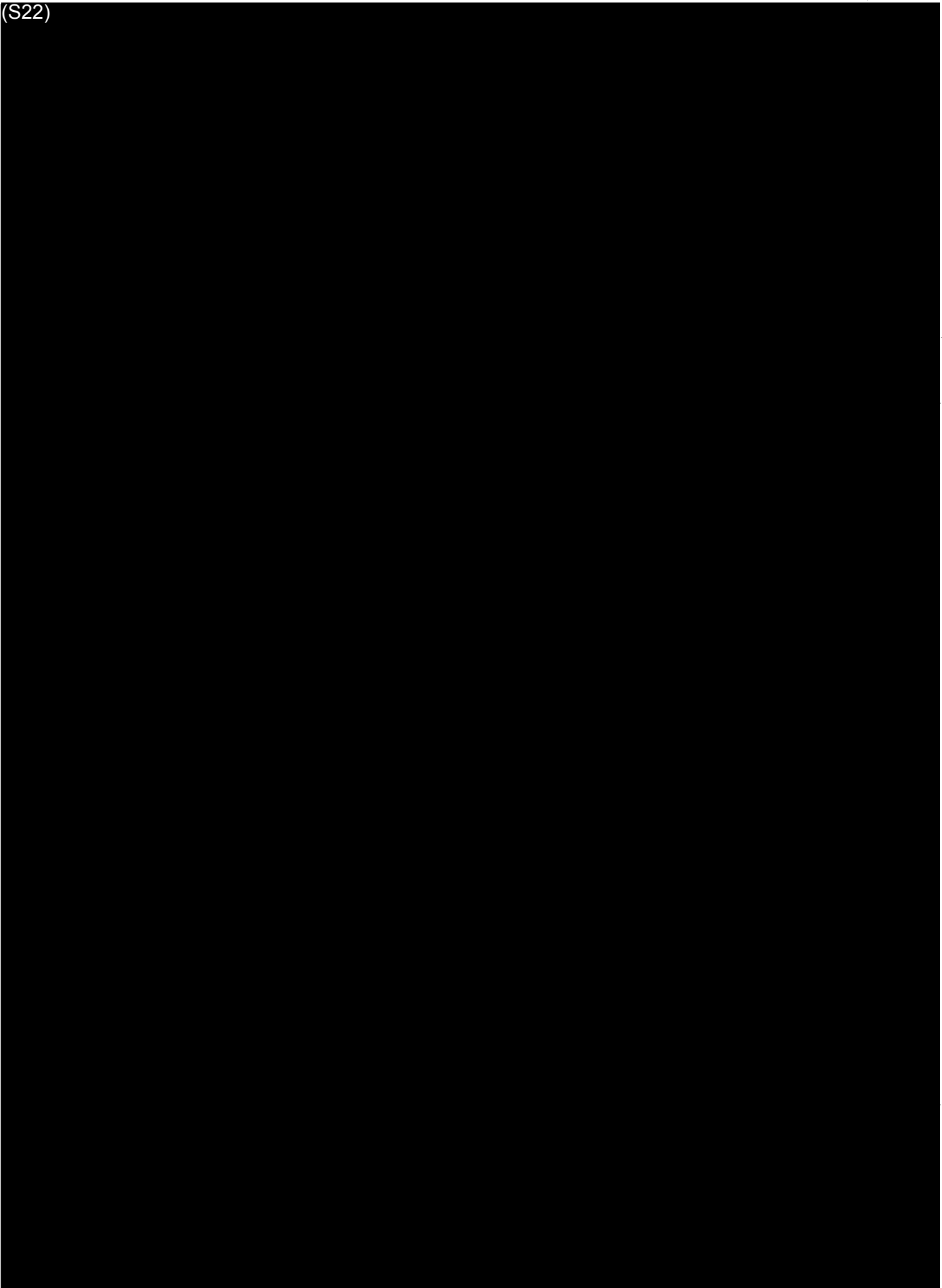


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**Introduction for Ministerial Expert Advisory Group on Gambling –
8 November 2010**

Introduction

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Conclusion

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Media Release

JENNY MACKLIN MP

**Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs**

BILL SHORTEN MP

Assistant Treasurer

8 November 2010

First meeting of Ministerial Expert Advisory Group on Gambling

The Ministerial Expert Advisory Group on Gambling today met for the first time to discuss the Australian Government's problem gambling reforms.

At the meeting in Melbourne members had an initial discussion about issues associated with the implementation of the Government's problem gambling reforms. This discussion will help set a framework for the future work of the group, as well as contributing to the Government's research and work agenda.

The group also agreed to focus their next meeting, to be held in December, on pre-commitment.

The Ministerial Expert Advisory Group on Gambling, chaired by Professor Peter Shergold AC, will provide specialist and technical implementation advice to the Government to assist us in delivering the national gambling reforms, including a full pre-commitment scheme.

The Government welcomes the contributions of the 22 member Group, which includes representatives from:

- problem gambling counselling and support services;
- clubs, hotels, casinos and gaming machine manufacturers;
- the Liquor Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union; and
- research and academic institutions that specialise in understanding problem gambling behaviour and harm minimisation measures.

As part of our gambling reforms, the Government has committed to introduce a full pre-commitment scheme for poker machines by 2014, poker machine dynamic warning and 'cost of play' displays, and a \$250 daily ATM withdrawal limit in venues with poker machines, except casinos.

The Government's reforms are based on the expert recommendations of a major independent inquiry conducted by the Productivity Commission.

The Australian Government is committed to working with the states and territories, industry and the community sector to ensure staged, evidence based implementation of the gambling reforms.

The Productivity Commission estimates there are between 80,000 and 160,000 problem gamblers in Australia. In addition there are between 230,000 and 350,000 people at moderate risk.

Problem gambling destroys lives - not only the life of the problem gambler but also the lives of their families and friends.

The Government's reforms will help limit the damaging effects of problem gambling, while continuing to let thousands of Australians enjoy recreational gambling in pubs and clubs.