

## LOTTERY AND GAMING (BETTING ON LOSING) AMENDMENT BILL

14 March 2007

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 27 September. Page 760.)

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD:** I rise to indicate support for this bill on behalf of Family First. Family First's position on gaming and gambling and related matters is no surprise to members of this chamber. We have a position very similar to that of the Hon. Mr Xenophon on many of these issues, and I think that that is very widely known, so it will be no surprise to members.

There are problems with the bill, and I think that the Hon. Mr Xenophon would acknowledge that. The issues raised by the Hon. Mr Lucas regarding jurisdiction are very real, and how one overcomes them in this modern world is, I think, a very significant challenge. However, we do not want to throw the baby out with the bath water. Family First thinks that the second reading stage of the bill is to be supported, and the finer details can be worked out in the committee stage.

One aspect of the bill that I would like to comment on—a very strong aspect of the bill that Family First would wholeheartedly support—is the 'betting on losing' area. Family First believes that this is a terrible practice and one that opens the door for corruption, and we have seen significant examples of that over the years where people have been lured into corruption through making large gains by throwing a game. The case of Hansie Cronje, the South African cricketer, springs to mind, for example, and there are others who were prepared to corrupt an outcome in order to produce a losing result and make a financial gain from that. Family First believes that it is just wrong to make it easier for individuals to become legally involved in that sort of practice, and we will certainly not be supporting any moves to go down that path. I commend the Hon. Mr Xenophon on this aspect of the bill in particular, which Family First wholeheartedly supports.

I think it is important to restate the obvious—that is, the damage that gambling does. People forget that. I agree with the comments that were made by the Hon. Mr Lucas that most people are able to gamble responsibly, but the truth is that an increasingly significant minority are not. I have a close friend, a woman now in her mid-thirties, who had a very difficult experience with gambling. It put her in a situation of tremendous debt and she has worked her whole adult life, essentially, to repay that debt—and she still has not fully repaid it. I am sure almost everyone—if not everyone—in this chamber would be able to tell a similar story. I have seen the impact on her life, and frankly it is a miserable one in many ways. She is clawing herself out of that hole at the moment, but it has been a long, hard road for her.

In short, the best that we a Legislative Council can do to prevent that sort of misery being inflicted on the people of South Australia is to support legislation such as this and legislation with similar intentions. Family First wholeheartedly supports the bill.