

Australia, 9 May 2018: Australia's national industry body for newsagents and lottery agents, the Australian Lottery and Newsagents Association, is pleased that parliament has unanimously supported an amendment to the Interactive Gambling Bill that will bring important new consumer protections by closing the loophole that lotto betting sites have been operating out of.

Adam Joy, CEO of the Australian Lottery and Newsagents Association said, "Today the lotto betting amendment to the Interactive Gambling Bill passed with unanimous support from the House of Representatives, and without even a division. This will protect Australia from synthetic lotteries.

"We are encouraged by the clear intent of the parliament today to rebuke online betting on lottery outcomes in Australia. This is a win for Australians and an endorsement of the Australian Parliament, and we look forward to the amendment passing in the senate in due course.

"The Federal Interactive Gambling Act already made it illegal to sell a scratchy online and play a poker machine online, and the federal government moved last year to further strengthen the act with an amendment to ban online in-play betting on sports and banning credit betting, as well as making it illegal for unlicensed operators to offer online poker. And today, we welcome the passing of an amendment that closes a further loophole in the Act by banning online betting on all lottery outcomes.

"Given the misleading and divisive campaign run to try and prevent the passing of this Bill, we would like to see this Bill sent to the Senate quickly. In the meantime, the Australian Lottery and Newsagents Association will continue to provide strong advocacy for our members, including to help newsagents receive better deals on the products that they are legally permitted to sell, making sure that they aren't excluded from access to the digital economy, and providing support to assist them in accessing the opportunities from the Federal Budget.

"These include the instant asset tax write-off extension, an extension of unfair contract terms protections, and the new funding provided to the Australian Financial Complaints Authority to give our small business owners access to free, fast and binding dispute resolution."

The Australian Lottery and Newsagents Association is the only national association representing newsagents and lottery agents in every state and territory of Australia, and are the only newsagents' association with a national ACCC collective bargaining authorisation. As such, it is the only association that is negotiating nationally with Tatts for further improvements.

ALNA represents over 2,000 small businesses, many of them family-owned, who rely on the sale of official government regulated lottery products. There are over 4,000 lottery retailers in Australia.

On behalf of those businesses and their staff, the ALNA thanks the government for its efforts to bring forward this important reform to protect Australian consumers. In particular, we thank Minister Fifield for his strong leadership, and Michelle Rowland for her bi-partisan support and stakeholder engagement, and also the Minor Parties and Independents. It is evidence that Australian political representatives, no matter what party they are from, understand what is important to fight for.