



## **TATE LOTTERIES (SCRATCH TICKETS) AMENDMENT BILL 19 October 1994**

**Mrs PENFOLD:** I oppose the Bill. The amendment will hurt small business but not the big operators. Small business will be doubly hit because the proprietor will have to attend court and often need to pay someone to look after the premises as well as possibly pay a fine. Parents have to be responsible for their young children in matters such as the amount of money they may have and the things on which they spend that money. Older ones with their own money have to make their own decisions. I suspect that many children are smarter than their parents and will work out that there are better and more enjoyable things on which to use their money. With luck, most of them will decide not to waste their money on gambling when they are older, having got it out of their system when they were younger.

With my own children I believed when videos came in that they would become addicted. However, after the initial attraction they can take or leave a video and are less inclined to watch them than are many older people. I suspect it will be the same with gambling. Those inclined to be addicted to gambling will be addicted anyway later in life. Often it appears to be as a result of the need to pay debts in adult life. What their families do will influence children's behaviour far more than will legislation. Parents need to show by example how they feel about gambling and the need to exercise restraint.

Finally, I do not believe the legislation can be policed and will only serve to cause young people to do something illegal and get away with it: very bad training for later life. It will draw attention to this activity and for many make it even more attractive. We cannot legislate against everything that is not good for us or our children. I agree with the member for Lee that all advertising of gambling should be banned and add that the money saved should be put towards rehabilitation of addicted gamblers and the damage caused. It would save us all from having to look at that horrid dog and from promoting gambling to children via television. As for consistency, what about all the other scratch tickets such as Mobil or McDonald's and bingo tickets? It will be confusing to children that some are legal and some are illegal. It will also help to further overload the courts system. I do not like gambling, but I oppose the Bill.