**[Australia Launches Its First Review of the BetStop Self-Exclusion Register](https://www.gamblingnews.com/news/australia-launches-its-first-review-of-the-betstop-self-exclusion-register/)**

[**Deyan Dimitrov**](https://www.gamblingnews.com/news/author/deyan/)October 22, 2024
While the program has reportedly recorded significant success, the government aims to carefully examine its track record **and introduce improvements where necessary**



The **Australian**government has initiated the first statutory review into **BetStop**, the National Self-Exclusion Register **created to protect Australians from the harms of online gambling**. [Leading the review](https://www.gamblingnews.com/news/ex-deputy-secretary-eccles-appointed-to-review-betstop-scheme/) will be **Richard Eccles**, an experienced public sector leader, who will help examine the register’s effectiveness and regulatory framework
**after 12 months** of operation.

**Gambling Harm Remains a Rising Threat to Australians**

BetStop, implemented by the **Australian Communications and Media Authority** (ACMA) in August 2023, covers all licensed Australian gambling operators. It ensures those who enroll in the program **cannot open** new betting accounts, place bets, or receive marketing materials from operators. Providers must also **close the existing accounts** of self-excluded individuals to strengthen [anti-gambling harm](https://www.gamblingnews.com/news/tim-costello-criticizes-nrl-afl-for-ignoring-problem-gambling/) safeguards.

Minister for Communications**Michelle Rowland** highlighted BetStop’s positive impact on Australian families. She urged individuals who’ve registered or interacted with BetStop to **share their feedback** in the upcoming public consultation, helping further **refine the service** and expand its reach and visibility. Rowland also reaffirmed her dedication to delivering the best possible exclusion platform.

***We want to make sure BetStop is working as effectively as possible to protect vulnerable Australians from gambling harms – which is why my department is undertaking this review.***

**Michelle Rowland, Minister for Communications**

ACMA created the self-exclusion tool to combat the significant **personal and societal impacts** of problem gambling. Research shows that problem gaming can lead to financial strain, relationship breakdowns, and impact individuals’ mental and physical health. BetStop allows individuals to **exclude themselves** from wagering voluntarily, **reducing their exposure** to gambling-related harm.

**BetStop Has Helped Tens of Thousands of Users**

Since its inception, BetStop has seen [rapid adoption](https://www.gamblingnews.com/news/acma-betstop-reached-almost-26k-registrants-in-june/). To date, **over 30,000** Australians have registered for the service. Most registrants,**79%**, are under the age of 40, and**39%** have opted for a lifetime ban from gambling. Currently,**23,000 people**have active exclusions. Initial estimates suggest that BetStop’s reduction of gambling harm may have already led to cost savings of**$80-$135 million**.

The review will consider whether BetStop’s regulatory framework remains relevant in the **evolving landscape** of online gambling. Minister for Social Services **Amanda Rishworth**noted the review was an opportunity to ensure the **continued effectiveness**of BetStop. She also highlighted the government’s past actions and ongoing commitment to protecting consumers.

***Protecting vulnerable Australians from online gambling harms is not a set-and-forget proposition – and we’ll continue to work closely with stakeholders across government, industry and community to address this pervasive issue.***

**Amanda Rishworth, Minister for Social Services**

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, and the Arts will outline the process for**public consultations** on its website by the end of **November 2024**. The review must present its final report to the Minister for Communications **within 18 months**. The findings will then be reviewed in Parliament, potentially leading to further refinements to reflect emerging trends in the online gambling industry.