

Balmain House

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13 July 2010

Senator Nick Xenophon
Independent Senator for South Australia
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator,

Thank you for your letter dated 13th July 2010 that you have sent to all Directors of beyondblue re your call for my resignation from beyondblue or Amtek Corporation Pty Ltd.

Your opposition to the existence of poker machines is well known, and I accept that has been the basis of your political career.

Regardless of your opposition to gaming machines, such products remain legal in I think every State and Territory of Australia.

As a result, Governments of all political persuasions have put in place rules and regulations to govern the operations and administration of gaming machines.

Amtek Corporation Pty Ltd is a company registered in Victoria, but increasingly operating throughout Australia.

It does not operate any gaming venue, but does among other areas of work provide installation and maintenance services to those individuals, organisations or Clubs that are licensed and approved to operate gaming venues, where poker machines are installed.

As you would know, whether heading a government, corporate organisation, football club, or a not for profit organisation such as beyondblue, I wear as a badge of honour my insistence on the highest level of corporate governance.

Amtek is a young company, established by four young men who themselves have a hunger for work and deliver an excellent standard of work in all the fields in which they compete.

I am proud to be associated with the young men as they now live their dream, and employ over 100 Australians. I am proud to be their Chairman, and trust that I add value to their work and aspirations.

They stand as a wonderful example of what can be achieved here in Australia. I thank you for your comments within your letter regarding beyondblue and its work. In 1997 I saw a need for a national approach to depressive illness, which led to the establishment of beyondblue in 2000.

The Honourable
JEFFREY G. KENNETT AC

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It is a wonderfully bipartisan national organisation, that delivers a long overdue focus on depressive illness and has just received notification that the Federal Government will be part of funding its operation for its third 5 year term.

In fact, all governments of Australia have substantially lifted their funding to mental illness since the advocacy and activity of this cause by beyondblue in the year 2000.

Given that I contribute 40% of my time to the work of beyondblue, I am disappointed to think that you would think I would do anything to compromise my work with beyondblue – I would not.

Your point, of potential conflict, would mean that if I was involved in anything other than beyondblue, I would have a conflict.

Clinical depression is experienced by 800,000 people each year, and you can add to that 200,000 with serious mental illness.

Yes gamblers make up part of those numbers, but so do non-gamblers, new Mothers, car drivers, sportsmen and women, country folk, members of the indigenous countries, separated men, even politicians – I think you get my drift.

I understand the point you have made in your letter, but trust you will recognise the application of my personal endeavours, and the insistence of good governance in all entities with which I am involved. This should give you confidence in the outcomes that my colleagues and I, in all the organisations in which I am involved, deliver.

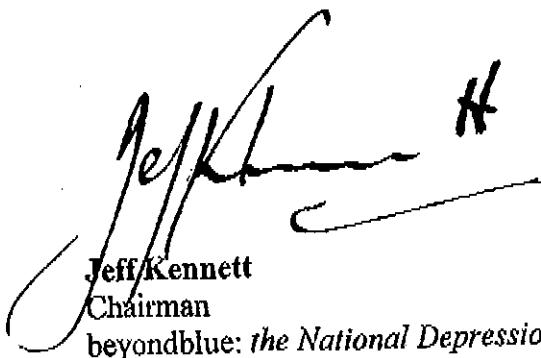
Therefore I do not accept your proposition of me having a conflict of interest.

If you are successful one day in having poker machines removed from our environment, your concerns will be resolved.

Until then, the standard that I apply to myself and the organisations of which I am part will easily pass any test of corporate governance, or law, or regulation of Australia.

That all being said, I will bring your letter to the Board for their consideration.

For now stay well.



Jeff Kennett
Chairman
beyondblue: the National Depression Initiative

Chairman
Amtek Corporation Pty Ltd