

Tabcorp responds

THE story "Gaming giant accused of bid to pay off rival" (*The Age*, 9/10) may leave readers with the impression that Tabcorp has been involved in anti-competitive conduct in its dealings with Clubs Victoria. The article is based on allegations in a statement of claim issued by Clubs Victoria against its former president, Leon Wiegard, and other parties.

Tabcorp is not a party to the proceedings and is unable to comment on the matters in issue between the parties or their motives. However, the article and the statement of claim seriously misrepresent certain arrangements that Tabcorp proposed to Clubs Victoria earlier this year.

Tabcorp has a range of commercial arrangements with various representative bodies. In particular, it has had long-standing sponsorship arrangements with Clubs Victoria, which it proposed earlier this year to extend for a 10-year period. Tabcorp's proposal did not require Clubs Victoria to refrain from participating in the bidding process for gaming licences.

Tabcorp strongly rejects any suggestion that it has contravened the Trade Practices Act or acted improperly in any way. **Elmer Funke Kupper, CEO, Tabcorp Holdings Ltd, Melbourne**

It's a gamble

DOES interfering in a tender bid make Tabcorp executives "fit and proper" persons (*The Age*, 9/10)? Not in my opinion! Will the Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation take away Tabcorp's licence if it is eventually proven that its people acted in a manner that — if not illegal — is certainly not the actions of fit and proper persons? We can only dream!

For businesses that complain long, loud and often about how

"heavily regulated" they are, gaming machine operators seem to get away with actions that no other businesses could. **Sue Pinkerton, president, Duty of Care Inc, problem gambling research consultant, Para Hills, SA**

My right to know

AS A 26-year-old donor-conceived person I am very concerned about the hurried passing of the Assisted Reproductive Technologies Bill (2008) without proper insight into the consequences. The bill will not amend birth certificates to reflect the truth about a donor-conceived person's genetic origins, as is done for every other Victorian.

The bill also does not address issues for donor-conceived people such as myself, who were born prior to legislation, whose rightful information about their heritage remains locked up and only accessible to a privileged few.

I have no problem with gay and lesbian people raising children. My problem is that the Victorian Law Reform Commission was only concerned with the wants and so-called rights of adults to have children. Nowhere in the terms of reference was there mention of improving the already flawed legislation to make all donor-conceived people equal.

This is not good enough and if this legislation is passed as it is, we will be failing children born through donor conception.

Narelle Grech, Brunswick West

Trust a bank

I'VE just received my credit card statement. Westpac has clawed back 10 days of credit, requiring payment of the account within 15 days rather than the previous 25. As well as reducing its borrowing costs, it will of course receive the added bonus of millions of dollars of penalty fees as people pay late, not real-

ising the terms of their accounts have changed. And their CEOs will pocket the cash. Be warned! **Chris Gymer, Ivanhoe East**

The art of innocence

AS the so-called scandal about Bill Henson's pictures took place in Australia in May, I was at Vienna's Museum of Modern Art looking at the work of the Austrian painter Egon Schiele, who in 1910 was prosecuted by the authorities for "violations of decency and morality" as he also portrayed children in what could be interpreted as an erotic manner. And what fantastic paintings they are.

The hysteria of society's moral standards, which today are both oversexed and totally repressed, targets the artist who by definition has a duty to explore all facets of human behaviour. The puritan over-reaction to the depiction of partly clothed children is misguided and misdirected, as once again, the media are having a field day stirring up the so-called scandal while various politicians add their uninformed and populist comments.

Bill Henson is a great contemporary artist, as Schiele was in 1910. I, myself, will continue to be awed by the haunting beauty of their work. **Karen Standke, artist, Richmond**

Principle, not profit

COULD I gently point out to Ciara Redmond (*Letters*, 9/10) that the difference between school children being scouted for a Blood Bank ad and being scouted by Bill Henson for (potentially) nude photography is that the former is in aid of the public good, whereas the second is for the personal profit of Bill Henson?

If we allow every Tom, Dick or Harry into schools to select children to use for whatever personal profit scheme they might dream up, there will be

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