

Wagering in Australia

What is wagering?

Wagering refers to all legal forms of gambling on racing and sporting events.¹

Racing

Racing comprises legal betting on horse and greyhound races with bookmakers and totalisators, both at race courses and off-course (TAB).¹

Number of race meetings in Australia by state/territory (2005-06 and 2006-07)

Location	2005-06	2006-07
New South Wales	798	748
Victoria	578	560
Queensland	719	723
South Australia	183	180
Western Australia	302	303
Tasmania	76	77
Australian Capital Territory	20	13
Northern Territory	76	78
Total	2,752	2691 ²

Totalisator Agency Board

TABs operate nationally to provide race betting on and off-course. Players make a 'unit' bet (a unit being any multiple of 50 cents or \$1 depending on the jurisdiction) on the outcome of a race. The operator deducts a percentage of the total units wagered (for costs including tax), and the remainder is returned as dividends (winnings) to players in multiples of the unit wagered.¹

TAB operators in Australia

Location	Operator
New South Wales	Tabcorp
Victoria	Tabcorp
Queensland	UNITAB ³
South Australia	UNITAB ³
Western Australia	WA TAB
Tasmania	TOTE Tasmania
Australian Capital Territory	ACTTAB
Northern Territory	UNITAB ³

On-course bookmakers

Wagering with bookmakers at a racetrack on horse and greyhound racing allows a player to wager any amount above a set minimum and receive the odds at the time of making the wager.

Those odds stand, irrespective of whether the bookmaker alters the odds at a later time. These alterations to odds are calculated to reflect weight of betting on different race competitors. Bookmakers are licensed in each jurisdiction⁴.

Off-course bookmakers

Wagering via off-course bookmakers allows a player to wager any amount above a set minimum and receive the odds at the time of making the wager. Those odds stand, irrespective of whether the bookmaker alters the odds at a later time. Bookmakers are licensed in each jurisdiction.⁴

Number of bookmakers in Australia (2005-06)⁵

Location	No.
New South Wales	214
Victoria	180
Queensland	115
South Australia	32
Western Australia	45
Tasmania	15
Australian Capital Territory	6
Northern Territory	23
Total	630

The ability to wager off-course has increased in recent years through the use of the Internet.

Sports betting

Sports betting refers to wagering on all types of local, national or international sporting activities (other than the established forms of horse and greyhound racing), whether on or off-course, in person, by telephone or via the internet. Bets may be laid on a variety of sporting events domestically and overseas.⁴

¹ Office of Economic and Statistical Research (2005) Australian Gambling Statistics 2005.

² Australian Racing Board (2007) Australian Racing Fact Book 2006-07

³ On October 12 2006, UNITAB Limited became part of Tattersall's Limited as a result of a merger of both companies.

4 Tasmanian Gaming Commission (2004) Australian Gambling Statistics 1977-78 to 2002-03, A Report prepared by KPMG Consulting (including amendments).

5 Australian Racing Board (2007) Australian Racing Fact Book 2065-07.

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