

If you feel strongly about something why not start a petition?

Phil Halpin

I have worked in schools since my retirement but have always wanted to do more. I recently circulated a [petition](#) seeking to abolish gambling advertising from all media. It is an excellent example of advocacy in action on a concerning social issue.

I think there are many people out there like me who become very frustrated at the unwillingness of politicians to act in our long-term interests.

I was watching the tennis recently and every time it was on there were advertisements for gambling. In one ad the young woman stated with a serious face that they had paid out \$7.2 million to punters. I couldn't believe it. That means people have contributed quite a bit to this company. What a joke. If the company paid out 80% of what they took in 'prizes' then that means they collected \$9 million and kept about \$1.8 million from just this one tournament and it wasn't even over.

That is how the petition started. Like many of my former colleagues I have seen the damage caused to vulnerable families by drugs and gambling.

The petition was organised through [Change.org](#). I have been a member of GetUp in the past but they did not take a stand on public education and government funding to private schools.

I believe that my experience and actions reflect the valuable role principals can serve in acting for the common good.

References

It is worth browsing through <https://www.change.org/> to see the variety of issues taken up in petitions.

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Phil was Principal at Gilgandra High School 1999-2000 and again in 2012, Executive Principal Dubbo College 2001-2008, Principal mentor in New England and Western regions 2008-2010, LMBR support 2011, retiring at the end of 2012. In 2013, Phil worked at Bourke HS for two terms pending the appointment of a new principal. In retirement, Phil has enjoyed some long distance hiking and wilderness hiking, travel with his wife and golf and bridge while at home.