

GAMBLING INFORMATION #2

Recognising local government's role in gambling regulation

The role of local government in managing the impact of gambling needs to be recognised by legislation and the Victorian government.

Why advocate on local government's role in gambling regulation?

- Local government has a statutory responsibility to assess the impacts of new EGMs in their municipality under the *Gambling Regulation Act 2003* and *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, and to respond to applications to the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR) in their municipality
- Local government invests its own resources in participating in the regulatory system for EGMs and should receive a fair hearing
- Of 41 applications by venues to the VCGLR in 2012, 40 were approved and only one was refused (three additional EGMs at Maryborough Highlands Society). Twenty-one applications were opposed by local government and all were unsuccessful.

What should local government advocate on?

Local government should be recognised for its role in determining the impact of gambling in local communities. The sector needs to advocate for gambling policy and regulation to be more responsive to community and local government, including more realistic timeframes for responses, more localised approaches, and research to support assessment and reducing barriers such as prohibitive costs.

How will the community benefit?

- localised response to local issues
- community voice better represented in gambling regulation
- improved public health and community wellbeing
- reduced public funds spent on ineffective appeals and campaigns

Customer Service Centres

Cranbourne
Centro Cranbourne

Narre Warren
Magid Drive

Narre Warren South
Amberly Park
Shopping Centre

Telephone: 9705 5200
Facsimile: 9704 9544

TTY: 9705 5568
TIS: 131 450
(Translating and
Interpreting Service)

Magid Drive
PO Box 1000
Narre Warren VIC 3805

Email:
caseycc@casey.vic.gov.au
Website:
www.casey.vic.gov.au

This information page was developed by the Local Government Working Group on Gambling (LWGOG) which comprises of a group of local government professionals sponsored by the Victorian Local Government Association (VLGA).



Victoria's Largest and Most Vibrant Municipality

Key issues for local government	Recommendations
The current ‘no net detriment test’ does not prioritise the best interests of the community.	Advocate that applications for new gaming venues or additional EGMs must demonstrate the proposal will bring a net economic and social benefit for the local community
The current timeframes do not allow local governments to prepare adequate submissions to advocate their position on the economic and social impacts of a proposal.	Advocate for realistic timeframes for submissions to VCGLR that take into account council meeting schedules and resources and the need for a genuine community consultation process
The costs involved in making submissions or appeals regarding applications for new gaming venues and/or EGMs impose an unfair burden on local governments.	Local government is adequately resourced to ensure they are able to effectively regulate and respond to gaming applications where community input is required, as recommended by the Productivity Commission ¹
Local government should support ensuring that EGM venues are not located in convenient locations, close to vulnerable communities.	Advocate for regulatory reforms to reduce the convenient access for electronic gaming venues in local communities

¹ Productivity Commission 2010, *Gambling*, Report no. 50, Canberra, p. 14.20

Gambler's Help Services

Gambler's Help

- This is a 24 hour phone counselling service. The website has some self-help tools.
- 1800 858 858
- www.problemgambling.vic.gov.au

Gambling Help Online

- This provides free, online counselling by trained staff, including live counselling and email support. The website also has self-help tools.
- www.gamblinghelponline.org.au
- Gambler's Help service programs are funded through the Community Support Fund and were established with the introduction of gaming machines in Victoria.

Metropolitan services

Region	Gambler's Help service	Phone
Eastern metropolitan suburbs	EACH http://www.each.com.au/gamblers-help-eastern/	1300 131 973
Inner metropolitan suburbs	The Salvation Army	(03) 9653 3250
Northern metropolitan suburbs	Banyule Community Health	1300 133 445
Southern metropolitan suburbs	Bentleigh Bayside Community Health http://www.ghsouthern.org.au/	(03) 9575 5353
Western metropolitan suburbs	https://www.ipchealth.com.au/	(03) 9296 1234

Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR)

- 49 Elizabeth Street, North Richmond, VIC 3121
- 1300 1 VCGLR (1300 182 457)
- contact@vcglr.vic.gov.au
- <http://www.vcglr.vic.gov.au>