

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Hearing

The Hon Melissa Horne MP

Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation

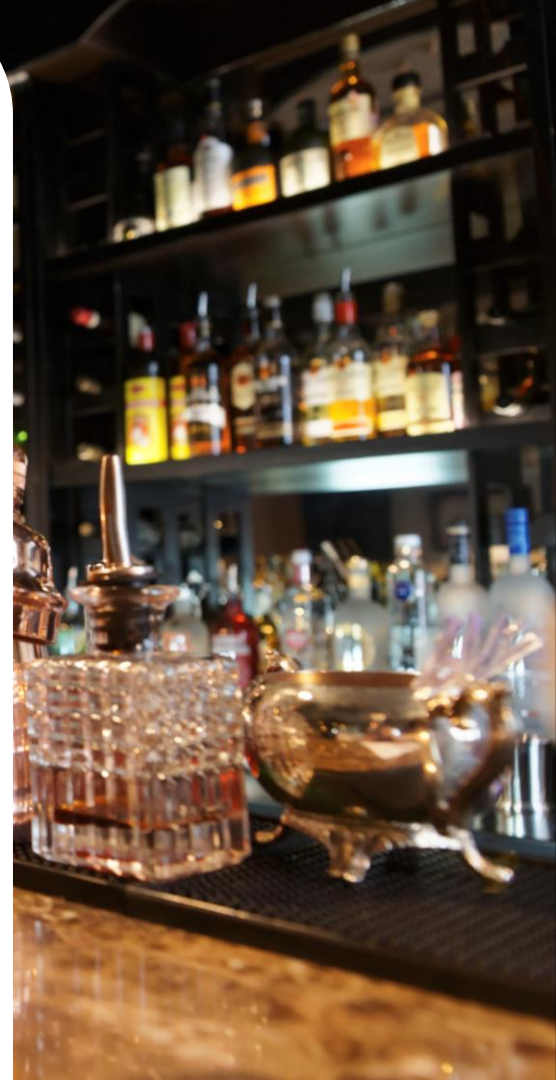
Wednesday 14 June 2023



Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation – year in review

We have put harm minimisation at the centre of the Portfolio:

- Separation of gambling and liquor regulation came into effect on 1 July 2022, including establishment of the Victorian Liquor Commission
- All 33 recommendations from the Royal Commission into Casino Operator and Licence have been completed or legislated
- VGCCC strengthened, with charges laid across gambling operators (including Crown, ALH, Tabcorp)
- Surrender scheme established for clubs and RSLs with unused gaming entitlements
- Proclamation of a new definition of harm in the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998*
- Preparation for ending the late night liquor freeze, including alternative policies to balance needs of the late night economy and live music with harm and amenity





This Budget invests in preventing and addressing gambling harm

The 2023-24 Budget provided \$109.98 million to:

- Continue the important gambling harm prevention functions including Gamblers Help and harm prevention programs
- The Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission, to maintain strengthened regulations of the gambling industry



We will address harm and build a stronger regulatory environment

This funding supports the Government's focuses on the coming year:

- Continuing the enhanced compliance and harm reduction measures across the entire gambling sector
- Improving important gambling harm prevention programs such as Gamblers Help
- Ongoing strengthening of gambling prevention programs, including improving connections across broader service system
- Consultation on self-exclusion programs in gaming venues and Codes of Conduct
- New draft liquor regulations which move to an improved risk-based fee model, for consultation ahead of 30 July 2023
- Establishing lived experience committee for liquor regulation and policy in first quarter of 2023-24 financial year



The VGCCC will continue to provide strong industry oversight



Establishing the VGCCC

- Harm minimisation focus enshrined in legislation.
- Enhanced compliance tools for the casino.
- Best practice model based on approaches from around the world.



Enhanced compliance activities

- Australian Leisure and Hospitality Group facing 62 charges for allegedly operating gaming machines without pre-commitment technology.
- Operation with AUSTRAC and AFP to target money laundering at Greyhounds Entertainment (Springvale)
- Charges laid against Tabcorp and Preston Hotel for allowing minor to gamble.



Focus on addressing gambling harm

- Strategy to ensure a risk-based approach to reducing gambling harm
- Holding the gambling industry to account through increased compliance activities
- Educational activities

Closing Comments



Enhancing focus on reducing harm across Casino, Gaming and Liquor portfolio



\$109.98 million to prevent and address gambling harm



New regulations to hold liquor and gambling to account

- Ongoing commitment to addressing gambling and liquor related harm
- All 33 recommendations of the Royal Commission at Crown Melbourne have been implemented or legislated
- Mandatory pre-commitment on almost 10 per cent of the State's gaming machines by the end of 2023
- Ensuring our regulator and harm minimisation functions are strong and fit-for-purpose
- Upcoming public consultation on requirements for Responsible Gambling Codes of Conduct and self-exclusion programs in gaming venues (mid-2023)
- New guidelines that focus on minimising the risk of harm while balancing the needs of live music industry and the night time economy will be in place. This will be complemented by risk-based liquor application fee model



Thank you

