

## Questions taken on notice

Portfolio:	Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation
Witness:	Mr Joel Williams
Committee member:	Mr Sam Hibbins
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Relevant text:

**Mr HIBBINS:** Number one, does the review into the VCGLR cover gambling and AFL matches? And, number two, do you have confidence in the VCGLR to undertake that function?

Answer:

The Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR) has responsibility for regulating the integrity of sports betting through the approval of sports controlling bodies and sporting events.

VCGLR's oversight of the AFL as a sports controlling body is outside the scope of the independent review into casino regulation. The independent review was established to provide advice on the necessary structural and governance arrangements to establish an independent casino regulator.

The VCGLR continues to perform its function in accordance with its statutory objectives, functions, and powers.

Portfolio:	Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation
Witness:	Ms Rebecca Falkingham
Committee member:	Mr Sam Hibbins
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Relevant text:

**Mr HIBBINS:** Okay. Thank you. Just changing tack now, in terms of liquor regulation there have been some concerns raised quite recently regarding the level of drink spiking that is occurring at venues, particularly in my electorate. I wondered whether there was any funding in this year's budget to address that. And I also wonder if there is any continuation of the sexual harassment and assault in live music venues program, which I believe undertook some pilot studies some years ago—whether those pilot studies have been expanded or whether that program is continuing.

Answer:

Victoria Police is primarily responsible for responding to the issue of drink spiking in licensed venues. The Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR) also plays a supporting role, principally in relation to information and education.

As part of its funded ongoing operations, Victoria Police is undertaking a range of targeted investigations and operations arising from the recent state of reported drink spiking across inner Melbourne entertainment districts including Chapel Street. Victoria Police has also engaged with the Department of Health and the Royal Women's Hospital on the issue of drink spiking and will continue to engage with health partners on the issue.

The VCGLR worked with Victoria Police to develop drink spiking posters for licensed venues. Venue operators can download posters from the VCGLR website and are encouraged to display these posters in high traffic areas that are visible to patrons and employees. The posters aim to encourage patrons to call out suspicious behaviour to venue employees, and to give employees guidance on best practices to prevent drink spiking.

The sexual harassment and assault in live music venues program pilot program has not been continued. An evaluation finalised in December 2018 found that while the program had the potential to achieve its desired impacts, only two of the nine pilot venues implemented the program as designed. As a result, the evaluation was unable to confirm the suitability or acceptability of the policy for usage in other venues. Our Government is continuing to monitor this serious issue and consider ways to address sexual harassment and assault across a number of settings.