
Tasmania Leading Australia in Responsible Gambling

The Tasmanian Government today announced a range of measures to further address problem gambling in Tasmania.

The Treasurer, Michael Aird, said the measures, including amendments to the Gaming Control Act 1993, were in response to the findings of the Social and Economic Impact Study and after consultation with key community and industry groups.

“These new measures will ensure Tasmania has the best harm minimisation practices in Australia,” Mr Aird said.

“The consumer protection measures are aimed at protecting all gamblers not just problem gamblers.

“The current voluntary code of practice for gambling will be replaced by a mandatory code.”

The new measures announced today will:

- enhance restrictions on access to gambling by minors;
- impose mandatory codes to improve gaming environments, including a prohibition on attendant service of alcohol and food in public gaming areas between the hours of 9 pm and close of gaming operations each day;
- place further restrictions on access to cash in gaming venues;
- enhance training requirements for gaming staff in identifying problem gamblers;
- improve information available to players on game rules and returns;
- restrict inducements, such as free food, drinks or games that may lead to problem gambling behaviour;
- align penalties for gaming with those for liquor licensing;
- strengthen the gaming exclusions regime for self-excluded gamblers;
- enhance education for at risk groups;
- review the effectiveness of the gambling support helpline;
- tighten bet limitations on gaming machines from \$10 to \$5 and strengthen other machine-based interventions;
- impose a maximum cash payout amount of \$1 000 for all winnings (Keno and EGM) for all venues; and
- reduce the current cash input limit on EGMs to \$500.

Mr Aird said in developing the measures the State Government had been mindful of the areas that need to be addressed nationally and the Productivity Commission

report into problem gambling due at the end of the year.

“We support the principles behind smart technology and machine intervention strategies,” he said.

“I have made no secret of my support of the principles behind smart cards and other player pre-commitment measures, and I will be seeking a national response to this issue.

“Player pre-commitment technology is changing around the world and it can only be dealt with at a national level.

“Even smart card technology has been replaced in some places by a USB player protection key.”

Mr Aird said he and the Minister for Human Services, Lin Thorp, would develop a whole-of-government strategy to try to combat problem gambling.

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