

SECOND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY OF GAMBLING IN TASMANIA

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Background

Under section 151(5) of the *Gaming Control Act 1993*, the Treasurer must cause an independent review of the social and economic impact of gambling every three years.

It is a requirement under the Gaming Control Act that the study be carried out by persons (only one of whom may be employed by the State of Tasmania or a State Agency) who, in the Treasurer's opinion, possess appropriate expertise or qualifications to carry out the review.

The first study was completed in July 2008 and is available on the Department of Treasury and Finance website at www.treasury.tas.gov.au.

Scope of study

Part A

Provide an update of components from the first study with an analysis of key trends and comparisons with other states, including, but not limited to: an update of the gambling industry structure and characteristics; changes and trends in gambling behaviour; and revenue.

Part B

Undertake an extensive micro analysis of the social and economic impacts of gambling in a selection of up to four local government areas (LGAs) with particular reference to electronic gaming machines (EGMs) to enable comparisons of gambling impacts in low socio economic areas with suitable control areas. This micro analysis will involve:

- i. collecting and analysing primary and secondary information and may include such sources as stakeholder and community consultations, surveys, focus groups, and venue observations;
- ii. developing socio economic profiles of each selected region;
- iii. assessing the prevalence of problem gamblers in the selected regions; the proportion of total EGM expenditure by problem gamblers; and the characteristics of EGM play including average bet per spin, duration and frequency of play, and expenditure by problem and recreational gamblers;
- iv. assessing the contributing factors to problem gambling compared to recreational gambling in the selected regions;

- v. correlating socio-economic profiles with the number of poker machines, poker machine expenditure and prevalence of problem gambling;
- vi. correlating socio-economic profiles with health indicators of comorbidity including mental health, drug and alcohol consumption and overweight/obesity measures; and
- vii. investigating the level of debt experienced by people with gambling problems.

Part C

- (a) Assess the effectiveness of existing harm minimisation measures.
- (b) Establish a baseline methodology to enable the evaluation of the package of measures announced by the Government during 2009 in response to the first study.
- (c) Establish a framework and methodology for the ongoing evaluation and monitoring of the measures referred to in (a) and (b).
- (d) Review the impact of advertising, promotion and the development of new gambling technologies.
- (e) Consider the merits, and evaluate the effectiveness, of a range of sentencing options being made available for gambling-related crimes (including a court-mandated diversion scheme to enable people to receive counselling for a gambling problem and undertake community service for their crime).
- (f) Assess the ability and effectiveness of improving data collection in courts and prisons.

It is a requirement that:

- consultation be undertaken with stakeholders;
- written submissions be invited from the community;
- the national definition of problem gambling be used as endorsed by the Ministerial Council on Gambling, which is “problem gambling is characterised by difficulties in limiting money and/or time spent on gambling which leads to adverse consequences for the gambler, others, or for the community”;
- estimates of gambling prevalence use the nationally agreed gambling screen, “the Canadian Problem Gambling Index”;
- where appropriate, the Productivity Commission Report into Gambling (final 2010) be used as a key information source; and
- the draft report be subject to independent peer review before it is finalised.

Reporting Date

The study is to be tabled in parliament by November 2011.

The Hon Michael Aird, MLC

Treasurer