



Department of Treasury and Finance

FACT SHEET

Tasmanian Gambling Exclusion Scheme

The Tasmanian Gambling Exclusion Scheme provides a means for people to exclude themselves from nominated gaming activities.

The Scheme is supported by the *Gaming Control Act 1993*, which allows a person to be excluded from venue-based gambling in four different ways:

- Self-exclusion;
- Venue operator exclusion;
- Third Party exclusion; and
- Exclusion by the Commissioner of Police.

SELF-EXCLUSION

Self-exclusion is where a person chooses to exclude themselves from gaming venues or gambling activities. This is done via the Break Even Network (BEN) which provides help for those affected by gambling.

BEN providers, currently Anglicare or Relationships Australia, offer counselling and assist in the completion of the self-exclusion process.

The self-exclusion places responsibility on the excluded person not to enter gambling premises or participate in gambling activities.

Venue operators have a responsibility to enforce the exclusion. Breaches of the exclusion by a person or an operator may result in penalties under the law.

Self-exclusion process

- A person can contact BEN providers or the Gambling Helpline on **1800 000 973** to make an appointment to discuss and arrange a self-exclusion.
- The BEN provider ensures that the person is fully informed about the exclusion, its implications and their rights and responsibilities.
- BEN providers assist with the completion of the self-exclusion notice which lists gambling venues or gambling activities that the person has elected to be excluded from. They will also take a photo of the person for the purposes of identification.
- The usual duration of a self-exclusion notice is three years. However, the exclusion can be revoked at any time through a BEN provider.
- A copy of the exclusion notice and photo is given to the Australian Hotels Association for distribution to nominated venues and the Tasmanian Gaming

Commission. The person making the exclusion is also given a copy of the exclusion notice.

- The venue operator advises all employees who are required to enforce the order of the identity of the excluded person.
- The operator will prevent entry or remove an excluded person from a nominated venue using no more force than is reasonably necessary should the excluded person breach the exclusion.

VENUE OPERATOR EXCLUSION

Venue operators may exclude a person from entering or remaining on their premises or from participating in gambling activities.

This exclusion can be used when a person jeopardises the safety and welfare of themselves, others and/or property. It can be used in addition to a self-exclusion if a person attempts to breach their self-exclusion order. A venue exclusion will override a self exclusion.

A person may request a venue operator to exclude them, pending a self-exclusion being completed.

Venue exclusion process

- A venue exclusion must be made orally or in writing, and lodged with the Tasmanian Gaming Commission. The individual should be provided with a written copy if requested.
- The venue operator will advise all employees who are required to enforce the order of the identity of the excluded person.
- The operator will prevent entry or remove an excluded person from a nominated venue using no more force than is reasonably necessary should the excluded person breach the exclusion.

The excluded person may appeal to the Commission to revoke the order.

THIRD PARTY EXCLUSION

A person with close personal interest in the welfare of another may apply to the Tasmanian Gaming Commission for an order to prevent the person they have an interest in, participating in gaming or wagering. Breaches of this exclusion may incur penalties under the law.

Third party exclusion process

- Liquor and Gaming branch staff are available to give information to people interested in applying for a third party exclusion. In particular they will discuss the:
 - rights and responsibilities of applicants; and
 - consequences of a third party exclusion.
- If the person wishes to make application, a Liquor and Gaming branch staff member will prepare a report to the Commission on their behalf. If the applicant is undergoing counselling, their counsellor can also contribute to the application. The applicant may be invited to make a submission to the Commission.
- When the Commission receives the application it will provide both the applicant and the person concerned with a written notice. The Commission will:
 - consider the report and may invite one or more parties to report to it in person;
 - assess the effects of the gambling behaviour on the person and those with a close personal interest in them;
 - the nature and extent of the gambling activity; and
 - need to be satisfied that the exclusion is in the best interest of the person affected by gambling and in the public interest.
- If the application is enforced, the Commission informs venue operators to advise all employees that are required to enforce the order, of the identity of the excluded person.
- The operator will prevent entry or remove an excluded person from a nominated venue using no more force than is reasonably necessary should the excluded person breach the exclusion.

- Application to revoke a Third Party Exclusion may be made to the Tasmanian Gaming Commission.

CONTACTS

For free and confidential assistance about exclusions, counselling and support, contact:

**Gambling Helpline Tasmania (24 hours)
Freecall 1800 000 973**

**Break-even Network Service Providers
Anglicare Tasmania Inc**

Hobart
Launceston
Burnie
Devonport
1800 243 232

Relationships Australia

Hobart
Launceston
Devonport
1300 364 277

Relevant Organisations

Tasmanian Gaming Commission

Level 2, 80 Elizabeth Street, Hobart TAS 7000
Enquiries: 6233 2475
Email: gaming@treasury.tas.gov.au
Website: www.gaming.tas.gov.au

Australian Hotels Association

25/93 Salamanca Place
Hobart TAS 7000
Enquiries: 6224 7033
Website: www.australianhotels.asn.au

Gambling Support Program

Department of Health and Human Services

3/99 Bathurst Street Hobart TAS 7000
Enquiries: 6233 2790
Email: gambling@dhhs.tas.gov.au
Website: www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/gambling