

Department of Communities Tasmania

GPO Box 65, HOBART TAS 7001

Web: www.communities.tas.gov.au



Contact Officer: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Our Reference: [REDACTED]

Your Reference (if applicable):

Liquor and Gaming Branch
Department of Treasury and Finance
Via email: future.gaming@treasury.tas.gov.au

Subject: Survey Questions - allocation of Community Support Levy Funding under the Future Gaming Market - July 2021

Thank you for providing the Department of Communities Tasmania with the opportunity to provide a response to your survey questions on the allocation of the Community Support Levy (CSL) funding under the Future Gaming Market. I understand the Gambling Support Program has previously provided a response to the survey. Please find below Communities, Sport and Recreation's (CSR) response, which follows a previous informal survey response.

Categories for distribution of the CSL

CSR's strong view is that there is a continued need for a funding category which specifically provides for community sport and recreation clubs to benefit from the CSL. Expressing this in a broad manner – for example, *supporting participation in sport and active recreation* – would enable a more flexible approach to funding a range of sport and active recreation activities which are not able to be funded under the current legislation's wording due to the requirement for an identifiable club to benefit from the funding.

The current CSL funding is the only ongoing Government funding to support increasing participation in community sport through purchase of equipment and improving sporting facilities. Should this funding be diverted to other categories, it would mean limited avenues for access to Government funding for those groups.

Considerations for the distribution of the CSL

CSR notes this section is focussed on linking the CSL to gambling losses.

CSR acknowledges the need to address gambling's impact on communities. However, sport and recreation is important to, and provides a range of health, wellbeing, social and economic benefits for, individuals and the whole community and not simply as a diversion from gambling. If grassroots sport and recreation clubs are not explicitly included as recipients of CSL funds, it will require another ongoing Tasmanian Government funding commitment to sustain what is a critical component of a healthy and active community.

In addition, linking the CSL distribution to the location of gambling losses risks projects being supported principally because of their location, rather than their merits or benefits to the broader community.

Suggested alternative approach

CSR's view is that the allocation of funding to support participation in sport and active recreation should continue to be no less (in dollar terms) than allocated under the current legislation, and preferably an increase (in dollar terms) commensurate with the increase in the funding pool under the proposed distribution model. This should be explicit in proposed legislative amendments.

Should you have any queries about CSR's response, please contact Mark Green in CSR on 6165 8356 or mark.f.green@communities.tas.gov.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MPervan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Pervan
Secretary

29 September 2021