

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

INTRODUCTION

The Government announced, in the release of its future gaming market policy, that there would be a significant increase in Community Support Levy (CSL) funding available for distribution from 1 July 2023. The CSL, applied to the gross profit of Electronic Gaming Machines (EGMs), is currently set at four per cent for hotels and clubs. Government will effectively double the CSL fund to improve harm minimisation by increasing the hotel rate and extending the CSL to EGMs in casinos.

Under the policy, hotels will pay a CSL of five per cent, clubs four per cent, and casinos will pay three per cent. To the extent that these levies are not sufficient to double the funding pool from current levels, Government has committed to providing a direct contribution.

With a new gaming market structure and an increased pool of CSL funds, a revised CSL distribution model is being considered.

While the objective of the CSL itself will not change, the objective of any changes to the CSL distribution model will be to improve the effectiveness of the CSL through allocation of the increased funds.

PURPOSE OF THIS SURVEY

The purpose of this survey is to seek your input into how the increased CSL funds ought to be distributed, with the aim of improving the effectiveness of the CSL.

CURRENT CSL MODEL

The *Gaming Control Act 1993* currently specifies that the CSL is distributed as follows:

- 25 per cent for sport and recreation clubs;
- 25 per cent for charitable organisations; and
- 50 per cent for problem gambling, for:
 - research into gambling;
 - services for the prevention of compulsive gambling;
 - treatment or rehabilitation of compulsive gamblers;
 - community education concerning gambling; and
 - other health services.

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PROPOSED CSL MODEL

The proposed legislative amendments require that the Minister must distribute the total CSL in the manner prescribed by the regulations. This replaces the current requirement in the Act that the Minister must distribute the CSL to specified categories in accordance with specified weightings.

This will provide greater flexibility and responsiveness to any emerging issues and changes in priorities within the gambling environment, with Parliamentary oversight through the making of regulations.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Categories for distribution of the CSL

It is proposed that the following new, and more broadly worded, categories for distribution of the CSL replace the current categories and set weightings contained in the Act.

Subject to this consultation, these categories will be included in the regulations:

- **community capacity building projects or initiatives;**
- **preventative programs or initiatives;**
- **direct support programs or initiatives; and**
- **research activities.**

In relation to the above categories for the distribution of CSL funds, we would appreciate your feedback to the following questions:

1. Do you support the proposed categories? YES / NO

YES

2. If you answered “NO” for question 1, what categories would you suggest and why?

3. Do you think that one or more of the categories should receive a greater proportion of funding over any of the others? YES / NO

YES

4. If you answered “YES” for question 3, please provide details of your recommended weightings for each category and why.

Please see the below recommended categories listed in priority order.

- 1. Preventative programs or initiatives with a focus on youth 11-25 years. Many adults who gamble in a problematic way started gambling before the age of 18 years. Priority funding is required to develop prevention and early intervention initiatives aimed at raising awareness of gambling harm and the normalisation of gambling among adolescents. Attention could be paid to non-sport based gambling entry points.*

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2. *Direct support programs or initiatives including support for long term projects in rural remote locations – People who are socially and culturally isolated including those living in rural remote areas are at a greater risk of developing problem gambling behaviours, however there is limited funding is available for prevention and treatment programs..*
 3. *Community capacity building projects or initiatives in rural remote locations with long term goals to develop community awareness of problem gambling and build interconnected support services for problem gamblers and their families. Vulnerable populations in rural remote locations are dependent on the availability of support services and their referral pathways, as such people experiencing gambling harm may not be offered appropriate support for their condition or may not be aware target support is available.*
 4. *Research activities including funding for LGA's to conduct community mapping to identify need - As gambling harm may co-occur with other problems such as mental illness, alcohol and other drug use, and family violence, LGA's may not be aware of the severity of incidence in the community. Support for community mapping to develop a strategic direction for improvements to prevention and treatment programs and appropriate support pathways may be warranted.*
5. Do you believe that the percentages should be more flexible at the margins, eg "not more than x per cent" or "no less than x per cent", rather than a set percentage? YES
6. Are there any other comments you wish to provide regarding the proposed categories for the distribution of CSL funds?

NO

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Considerations for the distribution of the CSL

It is proposed that the following considerations inform the distribution of CSL funding within the categories under the new model. For funding to be approved, a project, program or grant would need to be consistent with at least one of these considerations.

Subject to this consultation, these considerations for the approval of funding from the CSL within each category will be included in the regulations:

- **creating a link between the location of gambling losses and CSL spending;**
- **collaboration and partnering with other organisations to maximise reach and delivery of programs/initiatives to support prevention and treatment of problem gambling;**
- **supporting long term programs aimed at reducing problem gambling behaviour;**
- **supporting one-off grants for major initiatives aimed at reducing problem gambling;**
- **provisioning of ongoing counselling for problem gamblers;**
- **investment in programs, infrastructure and activities that enable greater community engagement and healthy lifestyle opportunities (as a diversion from gambling);**
- **supporting funding for research and evaluation of problem gamblers; and**
- **ensuring the distribution of the CSL is subject to regular review (eg to be reviewed every five years following the Social and Economic Impact Studies).**

In relation to the above considerations for determining the distribution of CSL funds, we would appreciate your feedback to the following questions:

1. Do you support the above considerations? YES
2. If you answered “NO” or “NOT ALL” for question 1, please provide details of the considerations you would suggest for determining the allocation of CSL funds and why?
3. Are there any other comments you wish to provide regarding the proposed considerations for informing the distribution of CSL funds?

Consideration should be given to the link between the broader region and gambling losses. Travel from regional areas to locations with access to gambling facilities (i.e., sporting events) may conceal a link between regionality and gambling losses.

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Rural remote locations are also at a disadvantage in terms of service provision with access to programs typically offered out of area or via internet and/or telehealth. Identified support for provisioning of ongoing face to face counselling specifically in rural remote locations could be considered.

Thank you for your input.