

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?
 - a. I wasn't sure what the community capacity building projects referred to.
 - b. I really liked direct support programs especially if it means support like chaplaincy.
 - c. Re the preventative programs or initiatives - restrictions around advertising would have to be a major initiative. Enough is enough.
 - d. I really like the category of research activity. I would love to see research into the impact of children attending venues with gaming machines and links to gambling problems later in life. I would also like to see some research into young people mental health and gambling.
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
4. If you answered "YES" for question 3, please provide details of your recommended weightings for each category and why.

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- I don't have sufficient information to make this decision. All what I know is community and belonging are far more effective than any other kind of solution. So anything which places people struggling in relationship and community would be ideal.
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? Again I don't have sufficient information but I do think the industry needs to make some major contribution to the damage it causes.
 6. Are there any other comments you wish to provide regarding the proposed categories for the distribution of CSL funds?

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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 / NO / NOT ALL
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?

Thank you for your input.