

Contact Officer: Ben Fowler

## **Gambling Support Program Submission to Gaming Control (Community Support Fund) Regulations 2022 Consultation**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission in response to the draft Gaming Control (Community Support Fund) Regulations 2022 consultation.

The Gambling Support Program (GSP) is funded through the Community Support Levy (CSL) and is responsible for delivering the Government's gambling harm prevention and minimisation response.

As part of that response, the GSP is committed to funding in-person, phone and online specialist gambling support services as well as delivering community education and research programs. The GSP CSL allocation also contributes to base funding for the Neighbourhood House Program in recognition of the roles that Neighbourhood Houses have in preventing and intervening in harm from gambling including building community resilience, breaking down barriers to help-seeking and supporting activities that respond to drivers of gambling harm. Finally, the GSP manages the CSL Grants Program that funds community sectors organisations to deliver grassroots projects that benefits vulnerable people and communities.

At a minimum, the GSP would recommend that the level of funding available to the GSP through the Community Support Fund (CSF) allows for current commitments to continue to be met.

The GSP welcomes and supports the greater focus on gambling harm in the draft Regulations, as well as the increased flexibility and transparency around expenditure. The funding categories described under Section 4 provide for current programs as well as the development of a range of additional or expanded support, harm prevention and harm minimisation initiatives. The funding criteria under Section 6 ensure that funding is tied back to gambling harm prevention and minimisation while providing flexibility to address issues that impact on gambling harm.

The removal of prescribed funding levels is supported as it allows the flexibility to direct funds to where they can be used most effectively, while the allocation approval (Section 5) and Ministerial Review (Section 8) processes ensure that funding is expended appropriately.

In terms of specific feedback, the GSP recommends including references to early intervention in addition to current references to gambling harm prevention and specialist support. This recognises programs for people who may be starting to experience issues with their gambling but may not require intensive support such as counselling.

Alternative wording suggestions are:

- 6 (b) there is collaboration and partnering between the recipient and other organisations to maximise the reach and delivery of programs and initiatives that support prevention of, early intervention for and specialised support for gambling harm.

6 (e) the allocation is for the provision of ~~ongoing~~ specialist support for people impact by gambling

While potentially encompassed by the current wording, the GSP recommends including gambling prevalence in the criterion focussing on research. This allows for preliminary research into gambling participation that can provide a platform for further research.

Alternative wording suggestions is:

6 (g) the allocation is for the support of funding for research and the evaluation of gambling prevalence, risk factors, attitudes, behaviours and impacts.

The GSP looks forward to working with the Commission to develop associated Guidelines (Section 7) that will provide the administrative framework for distributing the CSF funding.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the Consultation and please contact the GSP at [gambling@communities.tas.gov.au](mailto:gambling@communities.tas.gov.au) if you have any questions, concerns or clarifications regarding this submission.