

Taking action on problem gambling

Action area 2: Ensuring a more socially responsible gambling industry



Office of Gaming and Racing

***Taking action on problem gambling* is the Government's five year strategy to combat problem gambling in Victoria. The strategy includes initiatives totalling \$132 million and is an integrated approach to consumer protection and the prevention, early intervention and treatment of problem gambling. The strategy identifies seven priority action areas that the Government will act on to reduce problem gambling and its effects on Victoria.**

This statement builds on the Government's record of achievement in addressing problem gambling, including the introduction of regional caps and the removal of gaming machines from vulnerable areas, eliminating all 24-hour gaming venues outside the casino, banning smoking in gaming machine areas, restricting gaming venue signage and banning gaming machine advertising.

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Minimising the harm caused by problem gambling requires the active involvement of the gambling industry. Whilst government is responsible for the regulatory framework, industry must do more than simply comply with its legal obligations. The industry has a responsibility to ensure that consumers understand the risks of excessive gambling and that gambling environments encourage responsible gambling.

Key initiatives in this action area are:

- The Government will work with industry and community advocates on gambling to finalise a single code of conduct for the Victorian gambling industry for proposed implementation in 2007. The Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation will have responsibility for monitoring and enforcing the code.
- The Government will inject \$2.6 million to strengthen the industry self-exclusion program through a partnership between gambler's help services and the gambling industry. The funding will enable gambler's help agencies to train staff to attend self-exclusion interviews and assist in the management, monitoring and ongoing support for people choosing to self-exclude from gaming venues.
- The Government will provide \$1.2 million to resource the Responsible Gambling Ministerial Advisory Council to continue its advisory role to the Government on responsible gambling issues.

Further information on *Taking action on problem gambling* can be obtained from the Department of Justice website www.justice.vic.gov.au.