

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO 3

SUPPLEMENTARY HEARING - Friday, 29 September 2006

Minister for Gaming and Racing and the Central Coast
QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE AT THE HEARING

- 1 The Hon David Clarke asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon Grant McBride MP-
How is the Government's cut from the TAB going? How has that increased over, say, the past three (3) years?

ANSWER

I refer the Honourable Member to the Budget Statement 2005-06 Table 3.5 Taxation Revenue and Budget Statement 2006-07 Table 3.7 Taxation Revenue.

- 2 The Hon David Clarke asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon Grant McBride MP-
Are you aware as to whether the Government's cut from gambling is increasing as a percentage of the total income of the Government?

ANSWER

I refer the Honourable Member to Budget Statement 2005-06 Table 3.5 Taxation Revenue and Budget Statement Table 3.7 Taxation Revenue.

- 3 Ms Lee Rhiannon asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon Grant McBride MP -
Are you saying it would be illegal for you to put up the revenue from poker machines in pubs? ...would you please take that question on notice - if it is a legal requirement?

ANSWER

I am advised Section 206 of the Gaming Machines Act prohibits a person who acquires information in the exercise of a function in administering the Act from disclosing it to another person. Section 84 of the Taxation Administration Act 1996 also prohibits the disclosure of tax information, which includes information on revenue from gaming machines in hotels. The State Crown Solicitor has advised that Section 206AA would allow the publication of certain information provided the Minister has determined that it is in the public interest to do so.

- 4 The Hon Catherine Cusack asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon Grant McBride MP-

Would you be able to table that correspondence [Dr Gellatly's letter to Mr K Brown of 16 July 2003]?

ANSWER

A copy of the letter is attached for tabling.

- 5 The Hon Catherine Cusack asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon Grant McBride MP-

When did his employment with the department finish?

ANSWER

I am advised Mr Griggs' engagement with the NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing [formerly the Department of Gaming and Racing] ended on 11 August 2006.

- 6 The Hon Catherine Cusack asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon Grant McBride MP-

If you could hear me out and set me right after I have finished. The Minister then approved on 30 March 2004 a restructure of the Department. Then Mr Griggs was appointed on a temporary two-year secondment to the new position of Director, Communications and Strategic Support.

ANSWER

I am advised that Mr Griggs was appointed Director, Communications and Strategic Services on 30 March 2004.

- 7 The Hon Catherine Cusack asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon Grant McBride MP-

Was the position of Director of Communications and Strategic Support approved by the Premier's Department as part of the staff establishment of your organisation?

ANSWER

I am advised the Premier's Department approved the establishment of the temporary position to which Mr Griggs was seconded.

- 8 The Hon Catherine Cusack asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon Grant McBride MP-

Can you obtain the exact date that Mr Griggs's engagement with the Department of Gaming and Racing ended?

ANSWER

I am advised that Mr Griggs' engagement with the NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing [formerly the Department of Gaming and Racing] ended on 11 August 2006.

- 9 The Hon Catherine Cusack asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon Grant McBride MP-

Are you able to tell us how many weeks he was entitled to receive?

ANSWER

I am advised Mr Griggs received 52 weeks payment as a voluntary redundancy payment.

- 10 The Hon Catherine Cusack asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon Grant McBride MP-

Can you tell us precisely what date in August 2006?

ANSWER

I am advised Mr Griggs redundancy package details were finalised on 11 August 2006.

11 The Hon Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon Grant McBride MP-

The ones you say are fixed and going happily, I would be interested to see what you have done and why you consider them completed.

ANSWER

Of the 113 recommendations contained in the two IPART reports of its review of responsible gambling the Government supported 109. Of the remaining 109 recommendations, 14 recommendations required no change or that some proposed changes not take place and 15 recommendations were for noting only. Further particulars about these recommendations together with particulars of the recommendations that were not supported or not supported at this stage are contained in "Towards a Culture of Responsibility in Gambling" - the Government response to the IPART reports.

There are 80 actionable recommendations contained in 69 actionable projects, of which 32 have been completed. The following table details the completed projects as at 1 October 2006:

Date	#	Recommendation
June 2005	1	Prevalence research - matter raised with Ministerial Council on Gambling to expedite proposed national ATSI research (rec.1)
	2	Responsible gambling policy framework - short term website enhancement completed (rec.4)
	3	Responsible gambling framework - national publication of regulatory information promoted to other jurisdictions (rec.4)
	4	Research process - research arrangements provide for researchers to be appointed on a competitive basis (rec.10); elements of research to be implemented are projects implemented (rec.11)
July 2005	5	Gaming machine player reward schemes, gaming machine promotions and inducements - extended prohibition to those prizes that are indecent or offensive (rec.37, 39)
	6	Self-exclusion - amended legislation to make it a criminal offence for failing to establish a self-exclusion scheme (rec.41)
	7	SIA's - 10 over 10 years - amended regulations for a class 1 threshold from 4 machines over 3 years to 10 over 10 years (rec.49)
	8	Collection of client information (counselling services) - completed review of client data set - additional items added to the CDS, and existing items and procedures were revised where required (rec.86)
Oct 2005	9	Responsible gambling policy and administration - RGF trustees actively engaged in providing advice on responsible gambling policy (rec.CR1)
	10	Responsible gambling policy and administration - RGF trustees continue to have a responsibility for recommending funding for specific projects and services (rec.CR1)
	11	Responsible gambling policy and administration - transferred administration from the Trust to Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing with trustees continuing to make recommendations re allocation of funds (rec.CR2)
Nov 2005	12	Trialling of regulatory measures - amended legislation to allow trialling of modified regulatory measures in a limited number of venues for a specified period of time to allow research in a real world setting (rec.9)
	13	Counselling service arrangements with gaming machine venues - amended legislation to make it an offence for failing to enter into arrangements with counselling services (rec.76)
	14	Responsible gambling machine policy and administration - technical standards responsibility moved from Liquor Administration Board to Director, Liquor and Gaming (rec.CR1)
Dec 2005	15	Responsible gambling policy - secrecy - amended legislation to remove impediments that restrict publication of gaming machine data (rec.4)
	16	Gaming machine design - input limits / play through reviewed - advisory group recommended no change (rec.63)
	17	Responsible gambling policy and administration - renamed Casino Community Benefit Fund (CCBF) to Responsible Gambling Fund (RGF) (rec.CR1)

Date	#	Recommendation
	18	Responsible gambling policy and administration - amendment to legislation to allow Minister for Gaming and Racing to access RGF funds (rec.CR1)
	19	Responsible gambling policy and administration - community representatives replaced existing representatives from Health, Community Services and Education and Training (rec.CR1)
	20	Responsible gambling policy and administration - ceased allocations to community projects and services (rec.CR1,107)
	21	Effective counselling services - funding program for counsellors allows for compliance with four main strategies for problem gambling treatment services (Phase 1) (rec.78)
	22	Minimum standards for counsellors - prior experience recognised (rec.85)
	23	Collection of client information (counselling services) - liaison with counselling sector established with Client Data Set and will incorporate feedback (rec.87)
	24	Collection of client information (counselling services) - aligned client data set with other counselling services through use of standard data items (rec.88)
	25	Client follow-up (counselling services) - expanded the G-line contract to include client follow-up (rec.91)
	26	Accreditation of counselling services - processes for accrediting counselling services - recognise existing skills and experience within existing problem gambling treatment services (rec.92)
	27	Prevalence research - methodology - study takes into consideration outcomes of research conducted under Gambling Research Australia into efficacy of various instruments used in measuring problem gambling - GRA published 'Problem Gambling and Harm: Towards a National Definition' - Canadian Problem Gambling Index (CPGI) as measurement tool (rec.1)
May 2006	28	Large cash payouts on gaming machines - periodical review completed and legislation amended to increase threshold (rec.36)
June 2006	29	Pre-commitment cards - National (Gambling Research Australia) pre-commitment research (Phase 1) published - GRA published 'Analysis of Gambler Pre-Commitment Behaviour' (rec.57)
	30	SIAs - process guidelines published on website (rec.47)
	31	SIAs - timeframe guidelines published website (rec.48)
	32	Gaming machine design - permanent on-screen clock displays for new gaming machines (rec.26)



PREMIER'S DEPARTMENT
NEW SOUTH WALES

TELEPHONE: (02) 9228 5255
FACSIMILE: (02) 9228 4757
G.P.O. BOX 5341, SYDNEY 2001

GOVERNOR MACQUARIE TOWER
1 FARRER PLACE
SYDNEY NSW 2000

RECEIVED
17 JUL 2003
BY: _____

16 JUL 2003

Mr K M Brown AM
Director General
Department of Gaming and Racing
Level 11 Central Square Building
Cnr Hay and Castlereagh Streets
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Brown

I refer to your letter of 4 July 2003 concerning the secondment of Mr Robert Griggs to the Department of Gaming and Racing (DGR).

This letter is to confirm the discussions between us on the need for the DGR to receive additional assistance to meet the objectives of the Alcohol Abuse Summit. Further, the need for assistance to manage the major gambling harm minimisation inquiry and a review of alcoholic drinks which target young people.

As discussed with you the two senior officers in this department who have the experience necessary to provide the level of assistance required are Mr John Dermody or Mr Robert Griggs. Mr Dermody is the Executive Director, Office of Coordinator General and is leading the Premier's Department in its coordination of the State's efforts post the closure of the BHP operation at Newcastle. Mr Griggs is working with Mr Dermody's team and has experience in gaming and racing policy following his employment in the Premier's Office.

Mr Dermody needs to continue with Premier's Department to lead the Newcastle project. However, Mr Griggs has indicated he would be prepared to accept the secondment and would be delighted to accept the secondment.

On the basis of the above I am prepared to release Mr Griggs for a period of twelve months. As agreed with you Mr Griggs can remain on the payroll of Premier's Department for the duration of the secondment. The secondment to be reviewed in twelve months time.

O.R.12
21
17
03

2.

I agreed to increase Mr Grigg's remuneration by \$5,000 to take account of the additional responsibilities with his secondment to DGR.

I also agree that Premier's Department will support this project by the allocation of \$95,000 towards the secondment. I will arrange for Premier's Department to invoice the DGR for the difference each quarter.

I trust these arrangements meet with your approval.

Yours sincerely



Col Gellatly
Director General