



Minister for Gaming and Racing  
Minister for the Central Coast

01 NOV 2005

Director  
General Purpose Standing Committees  
Legislative Council  
Parliament NSW  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

The attached questions were placed on notice in relation to General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2.

I forward for tabling answers to the relevant questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Reba Meagher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R".

**The Hon. Reba Meagher, MP**  
Acting Minister for Gaming and Racing  
Acting Minister for the Central Coast

**PORTFOLIO – Gaming and Racing**

**QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING HEARING**

**1 Reverend the Hon F J Nile (Chair) asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon Grant McBride MP –**

Can you provide the names of the 10 large and small clubs that are represented [on the Special Ministerial Advisory Group - p8]? (*Hansard* p11)

**ANSWER:**

Special Ministerial Advisory Group –

- Mingara Recreation Club (Limited)
- Parramatta Leagues Club (Limited)
- Western Suburbs (Newcastle) Leagues Club (Limited)
- Ettalong Beach War Memorial Club (Limited)
- Mulwala and District Services Club (Limited)
- Illawarra Yacht Club (Limited)
- Mt Pritchard and District Community Club (Limited)
- Maroubra Seals Sports and Community Club (Limited)
- Eastern Suburbs Leagues Club (Limited)
- Campbelltown Catholic Club (Limited)

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

(a) Is the Government considering displaying information at regular intervals during individual gambling sessions showing the [gaming machine] player how much money he or she has lost? (*Hansard* p13)

(b) If not, why not? (*Hansard* p13)

**ANSWER:**

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's report entitled "Gambling: Promoting a culture of responsibility" recommended (Rec. 30) that "Requirements to provide information on individual gambling sessions on gaming machines should not be introduced at this time."

The Government supports IPART's recommendation, and referred to both the absence of specific research on the proposed measure and suggestions from research cited by IPART, about information of this kind potentially acting as an encouragement to players to chase losses incurred in that session, as reasons for its position.

**3 The Hon Melinda Pavey asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon Grant McBride MP –**

Why has the success in improving the administration, promotion and commercialisation achieved in the greyhound industry not been achieved also in the harness racing industry? (*Hansard* p15)

**ANSWER:**

The commercial activities of the greyhound and harness racing codes are the responsibility of separate controlling authorities, namely Greyhound Racing New South Wales and Harness Racing New South Wales. Although established by legislation, these controlling authorities do not represent the Crown and are not subject to direction or control by or on behalf of the Government.

As each authority has its own priorities and strategic directions, a comparison of the performance between the two is difficult and I am not in a position to state whether one is outperforming the other.

**4 The Hon Melinda Pavey asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon Grant McBride MP –**

What allocations have been made - by recipient name, purpose and amount - from the Casino [Community] Benefit Fund over the past 12 months? (*Hansard* p16)

**ANSWER:**

Allocations made for the Counselling, Treatment and Rehabilitation Services Program for 2004 – 2005:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
G-line (NSW)	To provide a 24 hour, seven days per week crisis counselling, information and referral service for problem gamblers, families, friends, and other people in NSW.	\$671,083
Auburn Asian Welfare Centre Inc	To continue with the provision of a counselling service for problem gamblers and their families.	\$51,943
Australian Arabic Communities Council	To continue with the provision of a counselling service for problem gamblers and their families.	\$122,143
Australian Chinese Community Association of NSW Inc	To continue with the provision of a problem gambling treatment service.	\$69,582
Baptist Inner City Ministries	To continue with the provision of a counselling and treatment service for disadvantaged problem gamblers.	\$67,604
Centacare Catholic Family Services	To continue with the provision of a counselling service for problem gamblers and their families.	\$231,774
Cessnock Family Support Inc.	To continue with the provision of face-to-face counselling and support services for problem gamblers and their families.	\$35,453
Chinese Australian Services Society Co-operative Limited	To continue with the provision of a gambling counselling service for problem gamblers and their families.	\$179,382
Chinese Youth League of Australia	To continue with the provision of remedial counselling services to young non-English speaking background problem gamblers and their families.	\$54,422
Christian Community Aid Service	To continue with the provision of a counselling service for problem gamblers and their families.	\$73,006
Creditline Financial Counselling Services Manly Warringah Pittwater	To continue with the provision of financial counselling for clients including options to control and monitor their financial situations.	\$7,746
Creditline Macarthur	To continue with the provision of a gambling counselling service for problem gamblers and their families.	\$45,780
Greek Welfare Centre	To continue with the provision of a bi-lingual counselling service for problem gamblers and their families in the Greek community.	\$64,822
Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital Drug and Alcohol Unit	To continue with an outpatient service for problem gamblers integrated with current substance abuse and mental illness programs.	\$171,063
Lao Community Advancement NSW Co-operative	To continue the provision of social, recreational and educational guidance and to counteract the effects of gambling in the Lao community.	\$33,500
Life Activities	To continue with the provision of support, counselling and treatment services to problem gamblers and their families.	\$136,021

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Lifeline Manly Warringah Pittwater	To continue with the provision of a gambling counselling service for problem gamblers and their families.	\$43,460
Lifeline Western Sydney	To continue with the provision of a counselling service for problem gamblers and their families.	\$204,739
Maryfields Day Recovery Centre	To continue with the provision of specific programs for problem gamblers and their families which includes education, counselling and therapy.	\$118,403
Mission Australia – Riverina Region	To continue with the provision of a counselling service for people experiencing the adverse effects of problem gambling.	\$124,790
Multicultural Problem Gambling Service	To provide a multicultural gambling counselling service for NSW.	\$534,490
Newcastle City Mission	To continue with the provision of the counselling, support and rehabilitation for problem gamblers and their families.	\$122,260
NSW Indo-China Chinese Association Inc.	To assist with the provision of a bi-lingual counselling service for problem gamblers and their families and to raise awareness of problem gambling among the Indo-Chinese community.	\$98,933
Odyssey House	To continue with the provision of accommodation and intense treatment for people who are unemployed, legally stipulated or who have an unstable living environment due to their gambling problems.	\$221,363
Salvation Army Compulsive Gambling Project, Surry Hills	To continue with the provision of individual counselling and group sessions for problem gamblers and their families.	\$52,068
Salvation Army Newcastle Rehabilitation Services Centre	To continue with the provision of counselling and treatment services for problem gamblers and their families.	\$47,785
South Western Sydney Area Health Service	To continue with the provision of a treatment program for problem gamblers and their families.	\$131,778
Southern Sydney Women's Therapy Centre Inc (The Women's Centre)	To continue with the provision of counselling, education and support services for problem gamblers, and families affected by gambling.	\$71,671
St David's Care	To continue with the provision of a counselling and education service for problem gamblers.	\$152,002
St Vincent de Paul Society – Game	To continue with the provision of a treatment service for problem gamblers and their families.	\$326,197
St Vincent's Hospital	To continue to assist with problem gambling treatment services.	\$164,707
University of Sydney	To continue with the provision of a treatment program for problem gamblers.	\$303,901
University of Sydney	To facilitate training of problem gambling counsellors in New South Wales.	\$31,504
Vietnamese Community in Australia NSW Chapter Inc.	To continue with the provision of a culturally appropriate counselling service for problem gamblers and their families within the Vietnamese community.	\$146,968
Wagga Wagga Family Support Service Inc.	To continue with the provision of a centre-based and outreach service to address the needs of problem gamblers and their families.	\$257,494
Waverley Action for Youth Services	To continue with the provision of counselling, information and referral services for problem gamblers and their families.	\$103,194
Wesley Community Legal Services	To continue with the provision of specialist legal assistance, case work and court representation for consumers with gambling related legal problems.	\$191,200

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Wesley Gambling Counselling Service (Penrith)	To continue with the provision of counselling for problem gamblers and their families.	\$208,426
Wesley Gambling , . Counselling Service – St George Sutherland Area	To continue the provision of a counselling service for problem gamblers and their families.	\$95,395
Wesley Gambling Counselling Service (Surry Hills)	To continue with the provision of a gambling treatment service.	\$489,126
Wesley Gambling Counselling Service (Surry Hills – Korean Project)	To continue with the provision of a gambling treatment service for the Korean community.	\$91,550
Wesley Gambling Counselling Service (Surry Hills – Training Grant)	To continue with the counsellor training and resourcing program.	\$191,200
Wesley Mission – Serenity House	To continue to meet the needs of residents of Serenity House who are problem gamblers.	\$34,175
Woodrising Neighbourhood Centre	To continue with the provision of a specialised counselling service for problem gamblers and their families.	\$55,871
Lifeline Central West (Bathurst)	To assist with the provision of treatment services for problem gamblers, their families and friends.	\$194,350
Lifeline Central West (Dubbo)	To assist with the provision of treatment services for problem gamblers, their families and friends.	\$114,595
Lifeline Broken Hill	To assist with the provision of treatment services for problem gamblers, their families and friends.	\$97,054
Mission Australia, Illawarra Gambling Service	To assist with the provision of treatment services for problem gamblers, their families and friends.	\$252,585
Illawarra Health Service	To assist with the provision of treatment services for problem gamblers, their families and friends.	\$159,094
Lifeline Northern Rivers	To assist with the provision of treatment services for problem gamblers, their families and friends.	\$70,683
The Buttery (Northern Rivers Gambling Service)	To assist with the provision of treatment services for problem gamblers, their families and friends.	\$119,000
Mission Australia, North Coast Gambling Service	To assist with the provision of treatment services for problem gamblers, their families and friends.	\$111,657
Lifeline North Coast	To assist with the provision of treatment services for problem gamblers, their families and friends.	\$110,513
Anglican Counselling Service (Diocese of Armidale)	To assist with the provision of treatment services for problem gamblers, their families and friends.	\$78,567
Anglicare Youth and Family Services	To assist with the provision of treatment services for problem gamblers, their families and friends.	\$155,126
Centacare New England North West	To assist with the provision of treatment services for problem gamblers, their families and friends.	\$71,711
Peninsula Community Care	To assist with the provision of treatment services for problem gamblers, their families and friends.	\$142,791
Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (NSW) for the Wesley Mission, Central Coast	To assist with the provision of treatment services for problem gamblers, their families and friends.	\$107,955

Organisation	Purpose	Amount
UnitingCare Unifam Counselling and Mediation	To assist with the provision of treatment services for problem gamblers, their families and friends.	\$82,690

**5 The Hon Melinda Pavey asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon Grant McBride MP –**

What proportion of the Casino Community Benefit Fund has been expended or approved for the current financial year for problem gambling, counselling and rehabilitation services? (*Hansard* p16)

**ANSWER:**

For the current financial year, seventy percent of the Casino Community Benefit Fund has been approved for problem gambling treatment and support services. The balance comprises forward funding commitments (funding is allocated on a 2 or 3 year basis), research, problem gambling education & awareness and administration.

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

In the 2003 report "Vanishing Acts", a report on the live music scene by Associate Professor Bruce Johnson and Dr Shane Homan, a number of recommendations were made. These include the legislative structure of the NSW Casino Community Benefit Fund be amended to devote a portion of the fund to live music infrastructure, that there be investigations of factors prohibiting greater provisions of all-age entertainment, and discouraging youth from attending club performances. What has the department done towards this? (*Hansard* p19)

**ANSWER:**

The live music project is under the lead of the Premier's Department and emerged from the report *Vanishing Acts: An Inquiry into the state of live popular music in NSW*, which was released by the Government in May 2003.

The Premier's Department convened an agency forum in October 2004 to work through the issues and propose options. The Department of Gaming and Racing was represented at that forum. Also in October 2004, I convened a meeting of hospitality industry groups to discuss their viewpoints on live music opportunities at licensed venues. I provided their views to the former Premier to assist in the preparation of the options paper.

I am aware that an Issues Paper: *Live Music Industry in New South Wales* was developed by the Premier's Department and released in February 2005. The Issues Paper is intended to provide the basis of advice.

The Casino Community Benefit Fund is a hypothecated taxing scheme and must be allocated in accordance with the overarching framework that is primarily directed to alleviating gambling related problems. Further, future allocations from the Fund will be made in accordance with the clear responsible gambling priorities noted in the

Government's response to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal report into gambling in NSW.

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

Has much independent academic research been done on gaming since your release of the figures on gaming? (*Hansard* p21)

**ANSWER:**

I understand that the Department of Gaming and Racing is unable to advise how many requests for gaming machine data it has received over the past year from independent academic researchers as purchasers of the data do not necessarily indicate the purpose for which it will be used.

Therefore, I am unable to comment on how much independent academic research on gaming has been done using the gaming machine data sold by my Department.

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

If there has not been much academic research, does that suggest to you that the figures you have released are not much use to independent researchers? (*Hansard* p21)

**ANSWER:**

As indicated in my answer to question 7, I am unable to comment on how much independent academic research on gaming has been done using the gaming machine data sold by my Department.

**9 The Hon Melinda Pavey asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon Grant McBride MP –**

- (a) Are you intending to legislate the voluntary liquor accords?
- (b) Do you believe that the success of those liquor accords lay in their voluntary nature, or will you legislate to make them compulsory? (*Hansard* p25)

**ANSWER:**

It is the Government's view that the liquor accord process is successful because it is supported and driven by industry volunteers.



**10 The Hon Melinda Pavey asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon Grant McBride MP –**

- (a) What is your view of the formation of the Australian Punters Association?
- (b) What is your understanding of the reasons behind the creation of the association? (*Hansard* p26)

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that the Australian Punters Association was recently formed with the stated aim of giving punters a representative voice in decision making, and to assist punters generally.

I appreciate that punters provide the financial platform for the ongoing viability of the racing industry and I am therefore mindful of the need to ensure that the interests of punters are given due recognition. On this basis I am supportive of the concept of a truly representative punters association that constructively conveys the views of punters to the relevant racing authorities and governments.

**11 The Hon Melinda Pavey asked the Minister for the Central Coast, the Hon Grant McBride MP –**

The Kincumber police station was built in 1996, your Government spent \$1.6 million building the facility and you have had nine years to make a decision. When will the Kincumber police station be fully manned in line with Government promises made when it was first built? (*Hansard* p22)

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that the deployment of resources at the Kincumber policing facility is determined by the Brisbane Water Local Area Commander in accordance with operational priorities.

**12 The Hon Melinda Pavey asked the Minister for the Central Coast, the Hon Grant McBride MP –**

Considering Wyong and The Entrance police stations date back to World War II, when will funding be allocated to rebuild those police stations? (*Hansard* p22)

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that the 2004-05 Budget Papers provide allocations of \$40 million per annum, beginning in 2005-06, for the replacement and refurbishment of 27 police properties across the state, including Wyong.

Additionally, a Strategic Planning Forum is being planned to examine policing facilities on the Central Coast, including The Entrance police station.

**13 The Hon Melinda Pavey asked the Minister for the Central Coast, the Hon Grant McBride MP –**

Minister, I am sure you are aware of the problems that nurses and doctors at Wyong hospital have been facing. To the best of your recollection, has the maternity ward been reopened? (Hansard p23)

**ANSWER:**

I am pleased that the Carr and Iemma Government's have made a record investment of over \$200 million on the strategy to improve Central Coast health services, including the redevelopment of Gosford and Wyong Hospitals.

Questions regarding operational matters fall outside the jurisdiction of the Central Coast portfolio and should be redirected to the Minister for Health, The Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC.

**14 The Hon Melinda Pavey asked the Minister for the Central Coast, the Hon Grant McBride MP –**

What are the wages of your two Central Coast ministerial staffers? (Hansard p25)

**ANSWER:**

Ministers' office staff are employed by the Director-General of the Premier's Department under the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002. Conditions of employment and entitlements are regulated by the provisions of the Act.