

Community Contributions

Many gambling sectors in Australia are legally required to make contributions to the community through various levies imposed on their operations. The industry makes additional contributions voluntarily to a variety of charities and community organisations throughout the country. Resources are also provided to fund research into the various aspects of gambling in Australia.

Australia

Casinos

In 2006-07, casinos in Australia contributed **\$32.64 million**¹ in levies to state government community benefit schemes established to support projects in local communities. This represents an increase of \$1.18 million from 2005-06, at a growth rate of 3.8%².

In addition, the casino industry made a total of **\$8.8 million** worth of voluntary contributions to a variety of community and sporting groups, charities and cultural events, bringing total contributions to the community to **\$40.0 million**.¹

New South Wales

Clubs

The Community Development Support Expenditure Scheme (CDSE) is an initiative established by the New South Wales Government whereby gaming clubs provide funding for community projects and services. The Scheme is designed to ensure that larger registered clubs in New South Wales contribute to the provision of front-line services in their local communities, and to ensure that the disadvantaged in the community are better positioned to benefit from the substantial contributions made by those clubs. The total value expended on CDSE projects in 2006-07 was **\$70 million**³.

Casino

The Casino Control Act 1992 requires the Sydney casino operator to pay a community benefit levy of two per cent on all casino gaming revenues. The casino operator pays the levy into the Government's Consolidated Fund which is then re-directed to the Responsible Gambling Fund. At the end of 2006-2007 there were outstanding forward commitments of \$12.7 million, with grants going to organisations to provide a range of services to problem gamblers and their families.⁴

Victoria

Hotels

The Community Support Fund (CSF), funded from hotel gaming machine sources, approved **\$74.6 million** of new projects in 2004-05, slightly more than in 2003-04 where **\$74.3 million** worth of new projects were approved.

Total expenditure from the CSF in 2006-07 was **\$110.8 million**.

Queensland

Lottery, wagering, keno and gaming machines

The Gambling Community Benefit Fund is sourced from a percentage of the tax imposed on gambling operations in Queensland such as Golden Casket (lottery), wagering, keno and gaming machines. In 2005-06, **\$35.3 million**⁵ was allocated to community projects across Queensland. Since its inception in 1994, the Gambling Community Benefit Fund has contributed more than **\$300 million** throughout the state.

The Reef Casino Community Benefit Fund was established in January 1996 by the Queensland Government. The funding is received from The Reef Casino in Cairns. As at December 2007, the fund had awarded more than 988 grants for projects totalling approximately **\$4.5 million**.⁶

Clubs and hotels

In 2005-06 on average, clubs donated \$55,300 and hotels donated of \$9,200 to community organisations. Clubs also donated an average of \$19,100, and hotels, an average of \$5,500 in non-cash or cheque contributions to community organisations.⁷

South Australia

Following the introduction of gaming machines into South Australia in 1994, the Government announced the creation of the Gamblers Rehabilitation Fund (GRF) as a result of an agreement between the government and representatives of the hotel and club industry. The fund has since been promoted as a joint initiative between the South Australian Government, the Australian Hotels Association (AHA) and the Licensed Clubs Association (LCA).

The Fund comprises contributions from the government of South Australia, the Australian Hotels Industry and the Licensed Clubs Association. More recently Sky City Casino has become a contributor. The industry groups (barring the Casino) contribute their portion of the funds via the Independent Gaming Corporation to the Department of Treasury and

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Finance where it is paid into the consolidated revenue of the South Australian government.

Essentially, the recurrent GRF income for 2003-04 was **\$3.3 million** made up by contributions by hotels and clubs via the IGA (\$1.5 million) and the government contribution (\$1.8 million).⁸ This was altered in 2004-05 to **\$5.45 million**, with industry contributing \$1.61 million and the government \$3.84 million.⁹

Western Australia

All gambling

The Problem Gambling Support Services Committee was formed in 1995 to bring together gambling industry and government representatives to address the social and economic issues that result from problem gambling in Western Australia. The Committee currently has representatives from the following organisations:

- Gaming and Wagering Commission of Western Australia;
- Burswood International Resort Casino;
- LotteryWest;
- Racing and Wagering Western Australia;
- WA Bookmakers Association; and
- Department for Community Development.

Each organisation, other than the Department for Community Development, contributes a voluntary amount to the Gambling Support Services Fund, which is managed by the Committee in association with the Gaming and Wagering Commission of Western Australia.

The Committee currently funds a specialist, toll-free, telephone counselling and referral service (or Helpline) for problem gamblers and their families, who are residents of Western Australia. The aim of this service is to provide free confidential telephone assistance, offering both counselling and referral services for problem gamblers and their families, accessible to all residents of Western Australia.

To complement the Helpline, the Committee also funds a counselling service, which provides free face-to-face counselling.¹⁰

Lottery

The profits from the sale of lottery products in Western Australia are returned to the community in various ways, according to the Lotteries Commission Act 1990 (as amended). In 2006, Lottery West (formerly the Western Australian Lotteries Commission) provided **\$184.7 million**¹¹ worth of funding to the community.

Tasmania

The Tasmanian Gaming Control Act 1993 provides for a percentage of gross profit derived from gaming machines in hotels and clubs to be paid into a Community Support Levy under the control of the Treasurer. The fund reported expenditure of **\$6.2 million**¹² in 2005-06¹³.

Australian Capital Territory

Clubs

The total value of eligible community contributions from club gaming machine licensees in the ACT in 2005-06 was **\$12.5 million**.¹⁴

Hotels

The six licensed gaming machine hotels in the ACT contributed **\$49,363**¹⁴ to the community in 2005-06.

Northern Territory

The Community Benefit Fund (CBF) receives 10% of the gross profit from gaming machines in hotels for community development projects and the ameliorations of problem gambling. In 2006-07, the fund received \$1.75 million from hotels, with \$590,093 directed to gambling research grants and some 318 small grants totaling \$1.05 million were approved for funding in this period.¹⁵

1 Australasian Casino Association, Australasian Casino Industry Economic Report FY2007, 2008
2 URS Finance and Economics (2007) Australian Casino Association Economic Report, Prepared for the Australian Casino Association, June 2007.

3 Department of Arts, Sports and Recreation (2007)

4 Community Benefit Fund Trustees (2007), Annual Report 2006-07.

5 Queensland Gambling Community Benefit Fund (2006), Annual Allocations Report 2005-06.
6 <http://www.cairnscasinobf.com/>

7 Extracted from Queensland Office of Gambling Regulation (2008). Results of the 2006 Survey of Gaming Machine Venues.

8 South Australian Department for Families and Communities (2005) The Prevention and Treatment of Problem Gambling in South Australia through the Gamblers Rehabilitation Fund: A Strategic Review.

9 South Australian Government (2005) South Australian Budget Statement 2004-05.

10 Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor, <<http://www.orgl.wa.gov.au>>.

11 Lottery West (2007), Annual Report 2007.

12 Not including administration and on costs

13 Tasmanian Gaming Commission (2007), Annual Report 2005-06

14 ACT Gambling and Racing Commission (2007), Community Contributions made by Gaming Machine Licensees. 2005-06

15 Northern Territory Government (2008). Treasury source