

History of Gambling in Australia

1809-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First organized race meet in Australia (New South Wales)
1861	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Melbourne Cup run in Victoria
1879-80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tote first introduced in Australia (South Australia)
1915-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First automatic totalisator machine installed in Australia (Western Australia)
1920-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golden Casket lotteries established in Queensland as the first government-run lottery in Australia
1930-40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'SP' bookies flourish in most Australian states
1942-45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Race meeting and lotteries restricted due to the Second World War
1955-56	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poker machines legalised in licensed clubs in New South Wales
1960-61	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victoria the first state to legalise TAB off-course betting
1965-66	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Australia the last state to introduce state-run lotteries following a referendum
1972-73	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First casino in Australia opened (Tasmania) Minor gaming introduced in South Australia
1973-74	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lotto introduced in South Australia Minor gaming introduced in Tasmania
1974-75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pools introduced in Victoria TAB introduced in Tasmania
1975-76	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pools introduced in New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania
1976-77	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lotteries, lotto and gaming machines introduced in the Australian Capital Territory
1977-78	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor gaming introduced in Victoria Off-course bookmakers phased out in Tasmania
1978-79	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instant lotteries introduced in South Australia Lotto introduced in Western Australia, Northern Territory On-course/Off-course bookmakers, Lotteries, pools and minor gaming introduced in Northern Territory
1979-80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lotto introduced in New South Wales Pools introduced in the Australian Capital Territory On-course totalisator and instant lotteries introduced in Northern Territory First casino opened in the Northern Territory
1980-81	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pools introduced in South Australia Lotteries re-introduced in Tasmania
1981-82	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lotto introduced in Queensland Instant lotteries introduced in Victoria, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory
1982-83	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instant lotteries introduced in New South Wales, Western Australia
1984-85	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instant lotteries introduced in Queensland Pools introduced in Western Australia

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1985-86	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First casino opened in Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia ▪ TAB introduced in Northern Territory
1988-89	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minor gaming introduced in Western Australia
1989-90	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lotteries phased out in South Australia
1990-91	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gaming machines introduced in Victoria, Northern Territory ▪ Off-course bookmakers phased out in Northern Territory ▪ Minor gaming introduced in Queensland ▪ Minor gaming phased out in Northern Territory
1991-92	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gaming machines introduced in Queensland ▪ Keno introduced in New South Wales, South Australia
1992-93	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lotteries phased out in Western Australia ▪ Casino opened in Australian Capital Territory
1993-94	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Keno introduced in Victoria
1994-95	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Casino opened in Victoria ▪ Gaming machines introduced in clubs and hotels in South Australia ▪ Keno introduced in Tasmania ▪ Sports betting introduced in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory
1995-96	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Casino opened in New South Wales ▪ Minor gaming phased out in Victoria ▪ Sports betting introduced in Queensland, Australian Capital Territory
1996-97	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gaming machines introduced in Tasmania
1997-98	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Keno introduced in Queensland
1998-99	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interactive gambling introduced in Northern Territory ▪ Productivity Commission releases landmark study of gambling in Australia
1999-00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interactive gambling introduced in Queensland, Tasmania ▪ Australian Gaming Council formed
2005-06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Betting exchange licensed and begins operation in Tasmania¹

Source: Winter, G. (2002), Gambling: An Australian Tradition on the Up! Department of the Parliamentary Library, Research Paper no.14 2001-2002, Statistics Group, 14 May 2002.

¹ <http://www.media.tas.gov.au/release.php?id=19197>.

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