

MEDIA RELEASE

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EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH TO REDUCING PROBLEM GAMBLING

The Australasian Gaming Council (AGC) today welcomed the Federal Government's response to the final report of the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Gambling and looks forward to being involved in the continuing consultative process.

The Government has made a sound, evidence-based response to the Productivity Commission's Report into Gambling, according to the AGC.

The AGC's comments came after today's release of the report along with the Government's response.

The AGC brings together key stakeholders in the Gaming industry to advance research in responsible gambling and harm minimisation measures. Members include the Australian Hotels Association, Australian Leisure and Hospitality Group, the Australian Casinos Association and the Gaming Technologies Association.

The Council is widely recognised as an authority and a leader in gambling related research and education.

Its members and executives participate in a number of public policy forums bringing together industry participants, state governments, community groups and research bodies.

AGC Chief Executive Officer Cheryl Vardon said: "The AGC is supportive of the Federal Government's approach to work through the issues raised in the Productivity Commission's report and to find effective ways to further improve Australia's strong track record in managing gambling responsibly.

"The government's initial response is balanced and will ensure that we continue to make tangible progress," she said.

"The AGC has and continues to be strongly committed to working cooperatively with governments on policies to reduce problem gambling and was consulted comprehensively by the Productivity Commission in the course of writing the report.

"The AGC welcomes the announcement that the Government will establish a COAG Select Council of Ministers on Gambling Reforms.

"It is important to get the balance right around the evidence of harm minimisation, implementation costs and any potential pre-commitment model.

"As a recognised authority on gambling data and gambling research, as well as being a strong participant in gambling public policy groups in Australia, the AGC will seek to actively engage in consultations with the new Select Council."

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