



Media release

GORDON RAMSAY MLA

Attorney-General

Minister for Regulatory Services

Minister for the Arts and Community Events

Minister for Veterans and Seniors

Member for Ginninderra

22 August 2017

New laws help to reduce gambling harm

The ACT Government has restricted EFTPOS cash withdrawals and reduced the administrative and tax burdens on small and medium clubs in new laws passed today.

EFTPOS cash withdrawals will be limited to \$200 per transaction and must be made at a single point in a club, outside the gaming area.

Attorney-General Gordon Ramsay said all stages of an EFTPOS cash withdrawal transaction must involve human interaction with a staff member trained in the responsible provision of gambling services.

“These requirements will assist staff in monitoring and intervening if necessary where a person is making repeated cash withdrawals,” Minister Ramsay said.

“The ACT Government is responding to growing community concern around unlimited access to cash in clubs, and the findings of the recent Access Canberra investigation into cash withdrawals at gaming venues.

“Club patrons can continue to be able to access EFTPOS to pay for food, beverages and other club services, while enabling monitoring and intervention where repeated cash withdrawals are made. Clubs will have until 1 September 2017 to comply with the new requirements.

“The transaction limit and other restrictions passed by the Assembly today will provide an opportunity for patrons to take a break, walk away and consider their gambling behaviour.”

Minister Ramsay said local small and medium community clubs and club groups have been supported with an opportunity to claim a 50 per cent gaming machine tax rebate.

“These clubs will also be able to lodge and pay their tax on a quarterly, rather than monthly basis,” Minister Ramsay said.

“It is important we support small and medium community clubs. Canberrans benefit significantly from our community clubs, whether it is through the direct financial contributions they make to community-based organisations or simply as a venue for people to gather and socialise.”

Small and medium clubs and club groups are those with gross gaming machine revenue under \$4 million per year.

“The tax rebate will support reinvestment into clubs, to diversify their income streams away from gaming revenue,” Minister Ramsay said.

“In addition to the rebate of 50 per cent of the gaming machine tax they pay, later this year small and medium clubs and club groups will be able to apply for a \$10,000 Community Club Grant.”

Minister Ramsay said that both Bills contributed towards the Government’s broader gambling harm minimisation agenda, which includes reducing the number of gaming machine authorisations to 4000 by 2020.

“The measures in these Bills will support continuing diversity of clubs in the ACT and the enrichment that comes through sport, music, artistic and culturally diverse activities,” Minister Ramsay said.

“They contribute to reducing gambling harm through supporting diversification away from gaming revenue and limiting access to cash in clubs.”

Statement ends

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