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22 September 2023

Sarah Connolly MP
Chair, Public Accounts and Estimates Committee
Parliament of Victoria

By email only: PAEC@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms Connolly

Parliamentary Inquiry into the Regulation of Gambling and Liquor and Reducing the Harm caused by Gambling – request for additional information

I refer to your letter dated 8 September 2023 requesting additional information regarding Community Benefit Statements (**CBS**).

CBS are due to the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission (**VGCCC**) by 30 September each year. Some venues have already submitted for this year and can be found at: [VGCCC - Community Benefits Statements - 2023](#)

Most of the remainder will be submitted by the due date. As these are uploaded manually there can be a delay of several days before they appear on our website. We proactively follow up with venues who do not submit on time.

VGCCC monitoring of the CBS Scheme and distribution of funds

The VGCCC undertakes a body of monitoring and audit related to CBS that informs our regulatory approach in this space.

CBS are required to be lodged by 30 September each year. They must be accompanied by an Independent Auditor Report.

In addition to the Independent Auditor Report the VGCCC performs its own assessment on submissions to ensure that club venue operators meet the CBS requirements.

The VGCCC's regulatory approach to CBS includes:

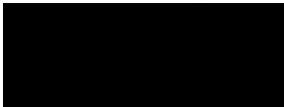
1. due diligence applied to all CBS submissions to assess any evident concerns in relation to accuracy, suitability and completeness of the amounts claimed, which includes checking:
 - a) whether club venues have submitted their CBS on or before 30 September

- b) if the community benefit contribution claimed by club venues exceeds the legislative requirement of 8.33 per cent of the gaming revenue to the venue
 - c) whether the Independent Auditor Report is attached as required in the legislation.
2. performing risk assessments on all CBS submissions and identifying high-risk venues where a further detailed audit process is required.
 3. contacting a sample of high-risk venues to perform targeted audits of the CBS submission, including requesting supporting documents to attest the eligibility and accuracy of the CBS claims
 4. discussing audit findings with venues in terms of any non-compliances of CBS
 5. taking enforcement action on non-compliance where required.

Other than monitoring and audit we have not undertaken research into the distribution, use or benefits of CBS funds.

On last year's CBS submissions, the VGCCC took disciplinary action against three venues who failed to submit their CBS by 30 September 2022. They were charged at a higher tax rate until they lodged the CBS with the VGCCC. Some failed to pay the higher tax and were then also charged penalty interest.

Yours faithfully



Fran Thorn

Chair

Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission