



Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Budget Estimates Hearing

The Hon Melissa Horne MP

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Liquor and Gaming Regulation

Friday 27 May 2022



Consumer Affairs

2021/22 achievements



Supporting business and community

- Implemented the new Professional Engineers registration scheme
- Engaged with community on the **new rental laws** through agencies funded by Consumer Affairs Victoria
- Assisted over 6,900 vulnerable Victorians with tenancy and consumer assistance and over 17,900 Victorians with financial counselling support



Focus on compliance and enforcement

- Prioritised rooming house safety, conducting 190 inspections to ensure compliance with minimum safety standards
- Actively monitored the **property market** for compliance and to enforce laws, issuing 226 Official Warnings and 171 infringements for underquoting and trust account offences



Regulatory reform

- The *Sex Work Decriminalisation Act 2022* passed in February 2022, with Tranche 1 reforms taking effect from 10 May 2022
- **Implementation of digital improvements** to Consumer Affairs Victoria and the Business Licensing Authority's online systems

Gaming & Liquor Regulation

2021/22 achievements



Royal Commission into the Casino Operator and Licence

- Report handed down October 2021
- Implemented nine priority recommendations (Tranche 1 legislation passed 2021)
- Appointment of Special Manager
- Work underway to prepare government's response to the remaining 24 recommendations



Establishing the new Gambling and Liquor regulators

- The Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission commenced on 1 January 2022, with new powers.
- Legislation currently before Parliament to increase VGCCC's minimisation focus and uphold the highest standards in the casino and gambling industries.
- Liquor regulation moving to DJCS in mid- 2022



Liquor reforms to revitalise nightlife and implement alcohol safety measures

- Abolishing dry areas
- Bars, hotels, restaurants and cafes wanting to extend their trading hours from 11pm to 1am will now be able to do so automatically, without having to apply for a change to their licence, subject to any relevant council approvals
- Improved protections for the online supply of liquor.

The 2022-23 Budget includes additional investment to strengthen gambling and liquor regulation, decriminalise sex work and improve contact centre services for the community



\$55.6m

Responding to the Royal Commission into the Casino Operator and Licence and enhancing gambling and liquor regulation



\$11.3m

Decriminalising the sex work industry



\$1.9m

Improving contact service processes and digital platforms to increase service accessibility



Thank you.

