

Public Account and Estimates Committee

Inquiry into the 2026-27 Budget Estimates

The Hon. Enver Erdogan MLC
Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation

Tuesday 19 May 2026



Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation

A Year in Review



Tobacco business licensing scheme

- Tobacco Licensing Victoria (TLV) has received around 5,000 tobacco licence applications and granted more than 3,100 licenses.
- Licensing inspectors are out in the community, working closely with Victoria Police and Commonwealth regulatory and law enforcement agencies.
- TLV has seized over \$6.5 million of illegal tobacco in its first 3-months, including more than 3.8 million cigarettes.



Gambling and casino regulation

- Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission (VGCCC) regulates gambling in Victoria.
- 95% of high-harm gambling breaches resulted in regulatory action (target: 95%).
- 1,600 gambling audits were completed (target: 1,600).
- 20% of audits were conducted at risk times (target: 20%).
- VGCCC focus was on directing major licensees, Crown Melbourne and Tabcorp, to implement major transformation programs.



Liquor regulation

- Liquor Control Victoria regulates over 23,900 liquor licensees in Victoria.
- Fee relief was provided to licensees impacted by the January 2026 bushfires.
- Robust inspections and enforcement protect Victorians from harm.
- New Responsible Service of Alcohol training rolled out to identify, prevent, and respond to sexual assault and harassment in licenced venues.

Tobacco Licensing Victoria (TLV)



Under laws to be introduced this year, TLV will be able to order businesses caught selling illicit tobacco to close.



Landlords who knowingly lease to illicit tobacco shops will face strong penalties.



These new powers will further disrupt illicit tobacco supply chains and make the community safer.

The 2026-27 Budget provides \$13.4 million to ensure a functional tobacco regulator with new powers to crack down on illicit tobacco.

This funding will increase the number of tobacco licensing inspectors to a total of 49, enabling TLV to order businesses caught selling illicit tobacco to close.

Funding is also provided for:

- enhanced evidence management to process and destroy seized illicit tobacco in a timely manner.
- new legal resources to ensure anyone caught selling illicit tobacco will face serious consequences.



Gambling harm prevention and reforms

The 2024-25 Budget invested \$165.7 million over 4 years to prevent and respond to gambling harm.



Gambling Harm Prevention and Response Model

- The model continues to support gambling harm prevention through a combination of service delivery, research and evaluation.
- Planning for the Statutory Review of the gambling harm prevention and response model is currently underway (as required by the VGCCC Act).
- The next Victorian Population Gambling and Health Study will be conducted in 2027 to understand gambling-related trends, including the prevalence of gambling harm.



Landmark gambling reforms

- Established the legal framework for mandatory account-based play and pre-commitment on gaming machines and completed a trial of account-based play.
- Reduced load-up limits on all gaming machines and slowed down spin rates on new gaming machines.
- Increased scrutiny of Melbourne casino, including stronger action for non-compliance, expanded mandatory account-based play to electronic table games and introduced more safeguards for cashless gaming at the Melbourne casino.

Liquor Control Victoria (LCV)

Strengthening liquor regulation in Victoria

LCV focuses its compliance activities on high-risk licensees, times and locations across the State.



Licensing

- Liquor licences processed 15% faster in 2025-26, supporting the hospitality industry and small business.
- Robust risk assessments focussed on harm minimisation.



Compliance

- 3,534 inspections, 208 fines totalling \$96,668.
- 19 prosecutions resulting in \$129,000 in fines.
- Focus on underage, unlicensed supply, amenity.



Education

- Over 30,000 people have completed RSA *Sexual Assault and Harassment: Recognise, Prevent, and Respond* training.
- New website that is simpler and easier to understand, helping people "self serve".



Thank you.

