



INDEPENDENT PRICING AND REGULATORY TRIBUNAL
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

MEDIA RELEASE

IPART REPORT RECOMMENDS IMPROVED RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING CONTROLS

(03/213)

The NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) today released the findings of its inquiry into responsible gambling, recommending improved regulation, more effective counselling services and further research into key strategies to reduce problem gambling.

The report was commissioned by the NSW Government to assess the effectiveness of existing and proposed gambling harm minimisation measures. It calls for a review of the signs and messages that aim to promote responsible gambling, to improve the consistency of the messages and reduce the number of signs required in gaming venues.

The report also calls for clubs and pubs to make it easier for gamblers to exclude themselves from gaming areas, updated staff training and a streamlined social impact assessment process for gaming machine applications.

IPART recommends an accreditation process for counselling services, regular reviews of counselling data to monitor trends and standardised follow-up procedures to measure the success of counselling.

IPART urges further research into issues such as maximum bets on gaming machines, the six-hour shutdown of gaming facilities, the location of automatic teller machines in gaming areas, daily cash limits on ATMs in gaming venues, restrictions on note acceptors on machines and pre-commitment mechanisms which set limits on how much time or money a gambler spends at a machine.

But IPART's report does not support specific requirements for natural light in gaming rooms, for gamblers to be visible from outside, double your bet features on machines, cashless technology where bets and payouts are made with tickets rather than money, controls on gaming machine artwork and sound, or slowing the speed of play.

Acting IPART Chairman James Cox said the Tribunal was concerned to balance reduced problem gambling with the community's legitimate freedom to gamble.

"The Tribunal's inquiry has recommended that gambling harm minimisation efforts in NSW would be improved by developing policies that consistently encourage a culture of responsibility in gambling," he said.

The Tribunal assessed the available evidence and stakeholder views on more than 40 existing or proposed measures to encourage responsible gambling.

The inquiry report is available from the IPART website: www.ipart.nsw.gov.au.

For further information please contact Mr James Cox, Acting Chairman, IPART on 02 9290 8411.