

Gaming Machine (Payment from Gambling Harm Prevention and Mitigation Fund—Minimum Community Contributions) Guidelines 2025 (No 1)

Disallowable instrument DI2025–37

made under the

Gaming Machine Act 2004, section 163D (Payment from gambling harm prevention and mitigation fund – minimum community contributions)

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Gaming Machine (Payment from Gambling Harm Prevention and Mitigation Fund—Minimum Community Contributions) Guidelines 2025 (No 1)*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on the day after it is notified.

3 Payment from gambling harm prevention and mitigation fund – minimum community contribution guidelines

I make the *Payment from Gambling Harm Prevention and Mitigation Fund—Minimum Community Contributions Guidelines* as provided in Schedule 1 of this instrument.

Marisa Paterson MLA
Minister for Gaming Reform

15 April 2025

SCHEDULE 1

PAYMENT FROM GAMBLING HARM PREVENTION AND MITIGATION FUND – MINIMUM COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS GUIDELINES

Purposes of the Gambling Harm Prevention and Mitigation Fund

The Gambling Harm Prevention and Mitigation Fund (the Fund) is established under the *Gaming Machine Act 2004* (the Act), division 11.2.

Scope of these Guidelines

These Guidelines relate only to allocation of money which has been paid into the Fund as minimum community contributions, including:

- 0.4 percent of the net gaming machine revenue of a licensee that is a club, for each authorised premises for the tax period (section 167 (2) (b) of the Act); and
- 0.4 percent of the community contribution revenue (that is, gross gaming machine revenue minus gaming machine tax) for each licensee that is not a club for the tax period (section 168 (1) (b) of the Act).

Purpose of these Guidelines

The Act, section 163D (3), provides that the Minister may make Guidelines about gambling harm prevention and mitigation.

The Act, section 163D (2), allows the Commission to make a payment of an amount out of the Fund only for a purpose set out in these Guidelines and with written approval of the Minister. These Guidelines outline the purposes for which the Commission may make payments out of the Fund under section 163D.

Proposals for Payments from the Fund

ACT Government agencies and non-government entities may apply to the Justice and Community Safety Directorate with proposals for referral to the Minister for consideration against the requirements of these Guidelines.

Proposals for payments from the Fund under the Act, section 163D, must fulfil one or more of the following purposes:

- a) The development and implementation of gambling harm minimisation, reduction and prevention policies, programs, activities or initiatives including the alleviation of disadvantage that arises from gambling harm.
- b) Funding inquiries, studies or research that will produce findings or recommendations relevant to options for reducing club industry reliance on electronic gaming machine revenue, club industry business diversification and related policies, programs, activities or initiatives.

- c) Provision of practical assistance to help the club industry to reduce its reliance on electronic gaming machine revenue, diversify its business and pursue related policies, programs, activities or initiatives.
- d) The delivery of the Government's gaming reform election commitments including:
 - a. the *Independent inquiry into the future of the ACT clubs industry*
 - b. progressively reducing the number of poker machines in the Territory to 1,000 by 2045,
 - c. introduction of mandatory, account-based cashless gaming in all ACT venues and implementation of a range of other harm reduction measures such as mandatory pre-commitment and mandatory breaks in play
 - d. strengthening self-exclusion schemes and banning ATMs and EFTPOS withdrawals in clubs with EGMs.
 - e. examination of options to support a poker machine free 'club of the future' in the Molonglo Valley.
- e) At the Minister's discretion, any other purpose that the Minister considers consistent with gambling harm prevention and mitigation.

In addition to consideration of the extent to which a proposal realises one or more of these purposes, proposals must also be assessed against the following mandatory criteria:

- f) make a strategic contribution to preventing and mitigating gambling harm in the ACT community, in line with government commitments and priorities; and
- g) be actionable within the ACT and directly or indirectly lead to benefit to the ACT community or a group within it.

Ineligible Proposals

Payments out of the Fund cannot be made for proposals that in the opinion of the Minister may contribute to gambling harm.

Proposals will not be accepted from individual club venues within a club group (as defined under the Act).

Funding Priority

The funding priority for payments made under the Act, section 163D, is for projects which support delivery of one or more of the Government's gaming reform commitments.

In a public health context, gambling harm prevention and mitigation occurs from the collective impact of a range of different initiatives which have different purposes and

are targeted towards different groups. The Minister may consider proposals in a strategic context to obtain the best possible outcomes of preventing and mitigating gambling harm in the ACT community.

Role of the Commission

The Commission are responsible for collecting and disseminating money from the fund. Payments may only be made as set out in these Guidelines and with the written approval from the Minister.