Minister to Attend Gambling Reform Meeting

The Minister for Racing, Gaming and Licensing, Delia Lawrie, will attend the first Select Council on Gambling Reform in Melbourne tomorrow.

“This is the first national meeting since the Productivity Commission handed down its report into gambling and developments in the racing and wagering industries,” Ms Lawrie said.

“It is also the first meeting since the Australian Government agreed to reform gambling, particularly electronic gaming machines as part of its deal with the Independent Member for Denison, Andrew Wilkie.

“This meeting will also discuss a range of topics including daily withdrawal limits at automatic teller machines in gaming venues, pre-commitment technology and further research.

“It’s important the Territory’s views are heard in a national forum.

“As well as supporting gaming reform, I will urge further research on the extent and impact of problem gambling on Indigenous Australians.

“A Charles Darwin University report funded under the Territory Government’s Community Benefit Fund found that 28 per cent of the Territory’s Indigenous population have problem with gambling with the problem three times higher in remotes areas than those Indigenous people living in non-remote areas.

“The research also showed that Indigenous Territorians also take part in non-commercial gambling including card games as well as commercial gambling with electronic gaming machines the most popular form of regulated gambling.”

Ms Lawrie said the Territory Government had already taken action to reform gambling.

“The Territory Government has already capped the number of pokies in community licensed venues at 1190,” she said.

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