Wine Raffles Now Illegal – Government Sneaks in new $2000 Fine
Chook Raffles are next.

New regulations which were tabled in parliament during the last sittings have the effect of making raffles for bottles of wine illegal. Any person convicted of the offence stands to be fined up to $2000 for the crime.

The Gaming Control (Community Gaming) Regulations appeared on a ‘tabled papers’ list. (The Regulations are Tabled Paper no 367) The list was simply placed on the table and this Regulation was consequently passed into law.

Regulation 20 includes a list of prohibited prizes including liquor.

“This means that if a local football club, bridge club or service club raffles a bottle of wine they will be committing an offence.” Shadow Gaming Minister Terry Mills said today.

“Under these draconian regulations all games, raffles, sweeps and calcuttas will be illegal including bingo, unless you have been declared by the Director as an approved association.

“If your office is planning to have a sweepstake next Melbourne Cup Day you will need to make sure that your office is an ‘approved association’ with permission from the Director. To become an ‘approved association’ you will need written applications from established clubs and bodies. The body must nominate a nominee to represent the club before the Director. The application then needs to be in the approved form. All easier said than done and hardly worth the effort for the office sweep. Under section 6 these rules apply to chook raffles as well.

“As part of the Priorities Review the Government is also considering application fees for these sorts of applications, rumour has it that its $15 for an approved association and $45 for a lottery.

“This is a government out of control and they have a regulation for every occasion, including chook raffles, welcome to the ALP’s brave new world.”

The new Regulations replaced the Gaming Control (Community Gaming)(Sweepstakes) Regulations. The old regulations were three sections long printed on two pages. The new regulations are 49 sections printed over 26 pages.

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