New code to encourage responsible gambling

The NT Government has joined forces with the gambling industry and gambling intervention services to develop a Responsible Gambling Code of Practice.

Launching the Code today, Racing, Gaming and Licensing Minister Syd Stirling said it aimed to promote responsible gambling in the community and ensure gambling industry staff had the skills to identify and help problem gamblers.

Mr Stirling said Government was providing around $50,000 from the Community Benefit Fund towards production, promotion and implementation of the Code, as well as a complementary Training Manual.

It has been developed by a Working Party made up of representatives of the gambling industry and gambling support services.

"For the majority of people, gambling is an enjoyable recreational activity. However, for some, gambling can have a negative impact on their lives and the lives of their loved ones," Mr Stirling said.

"The Code contains practices to be applied to achieve industry ‘best practice’ in the delivery of gambling services to minimise problem gambling."

It aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- minimise the extent of gambling-related harm to individuals and the broader community;
- enable customers to make informed decisions about their gambling practices;
- enable people adversely affected by gambling to have access to timely and appropriate assistance and information;
- promote a shared understanding between individuals, communities, the gambling industry and Government of responsible gambling practices and an understanding of their rights and responsibilities in relation to these practices; and
- ensure the gambling industry provides safe and supportive environments for the delivery of gambling products and services.

"The Code will initially be trialled on a voluntary basis for around 12 months from today prior to its formalisation by Gazettal in July 2004 in a manner that ensures it applies to all Territory gambling licensees," Mr Stirling.

"The Code and Training Manual are ‘living’ documents, and will be subject to regular review by the Working Party, to ensure that it is adapted to meet any changes in the Territory’s gambling industry.

"This will particularly be the case in the first 12 months as the voluntarily-applied Code will be road-tested and refined before its formal Gazettal from July 2004.

"I encourage gambling licensees to adopt the voluntary Code of Practice as soon as practicable and provide feedback to the Working Party prior to its mandatory application.

"I would like to thank the members of the Working Party who have worked tirelessly to develop this Code of Practice – the level of cooperation they have all displayed in developing this document deserves to be commended."
This includes representatives from Amity Community Services, Anglicare, AHA, Clubs NT, Darwin Turf Club, IASbet, Jupiters, Lasseters, MGM Grand, NT Licensing Commission, NT TAB, NT Treasury, Relationships Australia, Salvation Army and Tattersalls.

The Code, along with the Training Manual, is available on the Racing, Gaming and Licensing website at: www.nt.gov.au/ntt/licensing