

Media release



FROM THE MINISTER FOR GAMING

DATE: Monday, December 27, 2004

MEMBERS OF NEW GAMBLING COUNCIL ANNOUNCED

The Minister for Gaming, John Pandazopoulos, today announced the appointment of the members of the Government's new Responsible Gambling Ministerial Advisory Council.

Mr Pandazopoulos said members of the Council, which replaces the Problem Gambling Roundtable, had been drawn from community interest groups and gambling industry stakeholders.

"The members of the Council were selected because of their understanding of community issues, knowledge of the industry and demonstrated ability to constructively contribute to raising community awareness of the risks of gambling and the development of new harm reduction measures," Mr Pandazopoulos said.

"Council members come from a mix of community, industry, welfare and local government organisations."

Industry representatives include: John Bresnan, Leon Wiegard, Bill Horman, Mohan Jesudason, Scott Clarebrough, Robert Nason Brian Daley, Vicki Flannery and Geoff Rankin. Community representatives include: Mike Hill, Andrew Rowe, John Dalziel, Mark Zirnsak, Julie Smith, Cath Smith, Phong Nguyen, Alan Bliss and Eddie Chapman.

Mr Pandazopoulos said the Ministerial Advisory Council would have a stronger and more active role in contributing to gambling policy than the former roundtable.

"The Council will be a direct source of advice to the Government about problem gambling issues and gambling research priorities," he said.

The Ministerial Advisory Council will be chaired by the Advocate for Responsible Gambling, Kerrie Cross.

The Minister for Community Services, Sherryl Garbutt, who will also receive advice on problem gambling from the Council, welcomed the appointments.

"The new Council is a significant step forward, and will play an important part in the next phase of the Bracks Government's responsible gambling policy," Ms Garbutt said.

Mr Pandazopoulos said the members had been chosen following a publicly advertised Expression of Interest process.

The Council will be supported by a Cross-departmental Steering Committee and an Independent Peer Review Panel, chaired by Professor Bruce Singh, will provide research assistance.

The steering committee will ensure better coordination between Government agencies that carry responsibilities for problem gambling services, responsible gambling and gambling regulation.

The Independent Peer Review Panel will assist the Ministerial Advisory Council in considering the priority and feasibility of research proposals. The Panel will ensure that independent advice is available to the new Council.

At its first meeting, the Council will consider a Workplan for the year. An Annual Report on the work of the Council will be produced each year and be publicly available

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