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Gambling Policy Team  
Department of Internal Affairs  
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By email: pokiesconsultation@dia.govt.nz

Tēnā koutou

## **DCC SUBMISSION ON REDUCING POKIES HARM**

### **Introduction**

1. The Dunedin City Council (DCC) welcomes the opportunity to submit feedback to the Gambling Policy Team at the Department of Internal Affairs on reducing pokies harm.

### **Submission**

2. The DCC supports reducing pokies harm and would like this consultation to increase safety for people who gamble on pokie machines, through regulatory changes focused on harm prevention and minimisation. This aligns with the purposes of the Gambling Act 2003, specifically to:
  - control the growth of gambling
  - prevent and minimise harm from gambling, including problem gambling
  - facilitate responsible gambling
  - ensure that money from gambling benefits the community and to
  - facilitate community involvement in decisions about the provisions of gambling.
3. The DCC supports the following proposals in the Reducing Pokies Harm Public Discussion Document if they can contribute to the reduction of harm from problem gambling:
  - education and training of license holders, venue operators, and staff
  - changes to the regulations governing and technical specifications of the features of pokie machines
  - introducing stronger compliance requirements and infringement measures for breaches of the Gambling Act 2003.

4. In making this submission, the DCC notes its 2021 review of its Gambling and TAB Venue Policy. This Policy states that the DCC will not grant consent for the establishment of any new Class 4 gambling venues, or for an increase in numbers of electronic gaming machines within these venues.
5. As part of the Gambling and TAB Venue Policy review, the DCC resolved to lobby for a more sustainable model of funding for community organisations to replace the reliance on gambling proceeds. While this is the Council's preference, it supports changes that will prevent and minimise harm through pokie machine use, as outlined in this submission.
6. Key themes from submitters to the DCC's Gambling and TAB Venue Policy review were concern at gambling related harm in the community and the reliance of community organisations on the proceeds of gambling, particularly sports groups.
7. The proposed changes offer increased consistency and alignment with the purposes of the Gambling Act 2003 and aligns with the strategic direction for healthy and safe people set out in the DCC Social Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2023.
8. DCC sees reducing pokies harm as an important avenue to better improve outcomes for Māori. Māori are disproportionately impacted by gambling harm. The inequity that Māori experience currently should be a focus of the government's efforts to reduce the harm posed by gambling. By reducing harm from problem gambling, the Crown are more effectively meeting their obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi. Article Two of the Treaty of Waitangi guarantees Māori authority over their taonga, including their hauora (health).

## **Conclusion**

9. The DCC is pleased to submit in overall support of reducing pokies harm.

Ngā mihi



Aaron Hawkins  
**MAYOR OF DUNEDIN**