

**Submission to the Government Administration Select
Committee on the Gambling Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2007**

To:
Clerk of the Committee
Government Administration Select Committee
Parliament
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From:
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INTRODUCTION

ADANZ is committed to improving the health of the people of Aotearoa New Zealand by minimising the harm associated with alcohol, other drugs, and gambling. ADANZ recognises that people's choices around alcohol, other drugs and gambling are made in an environment influenced by government policy, advertising, social and cultural norms. To address misuse it is necessary to have a range of public health strategies and intervention services targeted at national, community, family/whanau and individual levels.

ADANZ believes social change is required to reduce the discrimination and stigmatization associated with problematic alcohol, drug use and gambling behaviours, so that individuals and their family/whanau can seek help and be recognized as contributing to our communities and to the well-being of Aotearoa. ADANZ is committed to encouraging wellness for people and their families/whanau affected by alcohol, other drugs and gambling. ADANZ believes that wellness is encouraged when services and communities offer hope, compassion and promote high expectations that all people can live well and that problematic alcohol, other drugs and gambling behaviours can be reduced.

We wish to make the following written submissions on the Gambling Amendment Bill.

We wish to appear before the committee to make an oral submission.

ADANZ SUBMISSION

It is our assertion that a comprehensive review of the Gambling Amendment Bill is required rather than the technical review that is currently before parliament. There is a need to evaluate the current effectiveness of policy and legislation to determine the next stage of policy development required to regulate gaming environments and reduce gambling harm. The Gambling Amendment Act could be the vehicle to achieve this end if the scope of the review was extended.

In conducting a full review, there would be real opportunities to ensure that the goals of the New Zealand government to promote healthy public policy and minimise the harms associated with gambling would be progressed.

If a comprehensive review of the Gambling Amendment Bill is undertaken this will go some way towards ensuring that the health of the people of New Zealand improves and that there is a reduction in the current inequities where lower socio-economic communities experience the greatest gambling related harm.

NCAT acknowledges the good work currently undertaken by the parliament of New Zealand and its ministries and sees that The Gambling Amendment bill is an opportunity for further legislative change.

It is our further submission that under a comprehensive review, the following areas would be considered:

Policy and legislative change required to reduce gambling harm:

1. Changes to gaming machine environments;
 - Modify the design parameters of Electronic Gaming Machines (EGMs) by the inclusion of responsible gambling features.
 - Tougher consequences for gaming machine operators who break the law.
 - Time restrictions on duration of play
 - Strengthen the problem gambler self exclusion process, applying orders across all gambling venues
 - Requirements on venues to install CCTV surveillance of gambling areas to allow enforcement of breaches in host responsibility
 - Introduce smart cards to enable gamblers to predetermine time spent on EGMS

2. Tighten legislation around gaming prizes
 - Machine prizes should be set at a maximum of \$250
 - Jackpot prizes should be discontinued.
 - Section 67(k), be amended by substituting the word gambling for the words “operating gambling machines’ so that all gambling can be included when assessing Primary Purpose.

Distribution of the Proceeds of Gambling:

3. Reduce the social harm caused by gambling losses by ensuring equity in distribution of funds and these funds they are returned to the communities that “donated” said funds.

4. Governance of Gaming trusts: currently trusts are comprised of non-elected trustees who have no accountability back to the community. It is recommended that through a comprehensive review of the act, tighter regulations could be implemented around trust business, governance appointments and accountabilities back to the communities they serve.

Advertising:

5. Stricter advertising criteria with legislative enforcement made possible.

Cate Kearney
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ADANZ