

# **Inquiry into Barring Arrangements**

- Independent Gambling Authority

From: Heads of Christian Churches Gambling Taskforce

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009.

## **Presentation Outline**

In response to the Terms of reference the Heads of Christian Churches Gambling Taskforce (GTF) will submit that:

1. Barring is a useful action as part of a suite of formal and informal measures to reduce gambling harm
2. There is some scope for streamlining current arrangements, but the current range of barring options is preferable to a 'one size fits all' approach that could limit the effectiveness of barring.
3. Barring options should be extended to all forms of gambling, including Lotteries, Sports betting and Poker
4. Barring options need to be extended to new and emerging technologies, including Internet and Mobile phone platforms. The role of the Australian Government in these areas is recognised, but the GTF will suggest some roles that can be undertaken at a state level
5. Whenever a bar is instigated for an individual, it is crucial that referrals are promptly made to gambling help services
6. Effective enforcement is crucial to barring processes being able to meet their intended objectives.
7. Venues have responsibility for taking a 'best endeavours' approach to applying barring measures. Their efforts need to be documented and compliance visits undertaken. Penalties are need for venues that fail to apply 'best endeavours' in the application of barring arrangements.
8. A non criminal approach to self exclusion is favoured for excluded persons, to optimise the chances of excluded persons effectively resolving their gambling problems
9. A protocol is needed, endorsed by all stakeholders involved with barring processes, including instigating, effecting and concluding the barring of an individual.
10. The development of card based pre-commitment programs is likely to increase the options to assist with compliance and enforcement of barring options, particularly across a range of venues.

Further Information

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