

Review of the Gamblers Rehabilitation

rehabilitation "to restore to reputation or former position; make fit again; re-instate" (Oxford dictionary).

Introduction

The Independent Gambling Authority is conducting an Inquiry into the effectiveness of gambling rehabilitation programs.

Clubs SA in responding to the call for submissions, it will address the section 4.2 "What submissions might address".

Interest

The Executive Director of Clubs SA is a member of the Gambler Rehabilitation Fund (GRF) by invitation of the Minister (presently the Hon. Mr. Jay Weatherill).

Previous to this appointment, Clubs SA was a member of the GRF as one of the industry stakeholders who contributed to the fund through the Independent Gaming Corporation (IGC).

This response is informed by this access and restricts itself to comment generally upon rehabilitation.

Submission

1. What makes an effective program

Clubs SA believes, as a result of anecdotal material, review of the Independent Pricing And Regulatory Tribunal of New South Wales Report (IPART), consultation with Club managers and interstate Club associations that the best practice for providing support for problem gamblers has the following characteristics:

- It has an intervention system in the venue
- The management of the intervention system is independent of the venue
- It has an effective referral processes from intervention to treatment
- There is a separation of treatment from support
- Treatment addresses the psychological aspects of the problem
- Support is the mechanism to provide effective post treatment
- The processes (Intervention, referral, treatment, support) are co-ordinated
- There is an evaluation processes for each component
- There is an effective case history system to promote evaluation and review
- There are mechanisms for promotion within the venues
- There is common purpose and understandings between the components of the system

2. Measures of effectiveness

In simple terms the measures of effectiveness are:

1. The rate of restoration of a non gambling dependent life to the individual problem gambler
2. The rate of restoration / resolution of gambling induced losses and social dislocation generated by the problem gambler

Clubs SA knows of no published or collated materials that would indicate the present services meet these effectiveness measures.

3. Current / Existing programs

Clubs SA argues that presently there is no adequate venue based intervention processes. The industry is seeking to introduce these services in 2005.

Clubs SA understands that the funding of programs is inadequate, particularly at the “coal face” where monies are diverted from rehabilitation to non-rehabilitative activities of promotions and education.

Whilst it is accepted that education and non rehabilitation research are an effective means of ensuring long term change, rehabilitation is an immediate processes of dealing with the existing crisis/ problem. Consequently, Clubs SA argues that rehabilitation funds should not be used to provide education and research. There needs to be a separate source of funds with dedicated outcomes for the delivery of education and non-treatment processes.

Summary

Clubs SA recognises that the issues of rehabilitation are exponential and the monies available are finite. It is the main position put by Clubs SA that it wants a co-ordinated system of rehabilitation put into place that has the sole focus of rehabilitation.

Clubs SA understands that the process of rehabilitation is defined as to “restore to reputation or former position; make fit again; re-instate” (Oxford dictionary); and thus Clubs SA argues that the funds for rehabilitation should not be diverted to general promotion activity, education, compliance, research (apart from rehabilitation research), public administration or non-specific but related treatment programs (alcohol, drugs etc).