



Ballarat Responsible Gambling Committee:

TERMS OF REFERENCE July 2013:

1. Name:

The Committee will be known as the Ballarat Responsible Gambling Committee (BRGC).

2. Background:

Established in 2001 under the title of the Responsible Gambling Interest Group, BRGC is a forum for discussion and exchange of ideas between stakeholders in the City of Ballarat, to identify issues and facilitate the development of strategies and initiatives to promote responsible gambling.

3. Agreed Definition of Responsible Gambling:

Responsible gambling refers to policies, programs and practices designed to prevent, minimise and reduce the potential and actual harms associated with gambling.

These policies, programs and practices include a range of interventions designed to uphold government transparency and accountability in the interests of all citizens within a democratic society; regulate the gaming industry and activities of gaming operators; protect the health and wellbeing of regions, communities and families; promote consumer protection; strengthen consumer/community awareness and education; and provide access to effective treatment for people harmed by gambling.

It is recognised that while some individuals gamble for entertainment at little or no cost to themselves, gambling does harm individuals, families and communities and regions.

There is collective responsibility on government, the gaming industry, gaming operators, community groups, agencies, problem gambling support services and

individuals to ensure that where gambling is planned or occurs, it accords to the definition of responsible gambling.

4. Role of the Committee:

- 4.1 To encourage public discussion and debate to build knowledge and understanding of local responsible gambling and problem gambling issues.
- 4.2 To undertake local research and draw upon local, national and international research to facilitate and inform policy development and Council decision-making on gambling issues.
- 4.3 To collaboratively develop strategies and initiatives to minimise harm and to promote responsible gaming / customer care practices.
- 4.4 To facilitate linkages between gaming venues and community organisations to minimise community harm and maximise community benefits.
- 4.5 To advocate for and recognise best practice in responsible gambling and further link with other responsible gambling committees and interest groups.

5. Membership:

- 5.1 Membership is drawn from key representatives from agencies and organisations and may include but is not limited to:
 - Community Service Organisations
 - Central Highlands Primary Care Partnership
 - City of Ballarat
 - University of Ballarat
 - Community Representatives (2)
 - Local club representatives (2)
 - Local hotel representatives (2)
- 5.2 The Committee will facilitate Expressions of Interest for (2) two community representatives. From Expressions of Interest received a Sub-committee of BRGC will be formed to select representatives for a two year period.
- 5.3 In the event a representative from a club, hotel of community service or organisation is unable to attend a meeting they may appoint a delegate from

a similar organisation (another club, hotel or community service organisation respectively) to attend.

- 5.4 City of Ballarat will confirm its representatives annually as with all other committees.
- 5.5 All enquiries from the media relating to the Committee are to be directed to the Chairperson for response.

6. Meeting Procedure:

- 6.1 A representative from the City of Ballarat shall chair meetings
- 6.2 Decisions will be made by negotiation and consensus. The Committee will have no formal voting process.
- 6.3 Meetings will be held 4 times per year.
- 6.4 Sub-committee groups may be established at the direction of the Committee to address specific issues in relation to responsible gambling issues and appoint people with the necessary knowledge and skills to contribute to those sub-committees as necessary. Any sub-committee shall report back regularly to BRGC on project progress and recommendations for further action.
- 6.5 City of Ballarat will provide the administrative support for the Committee.

7. Review

- 7.1 The Committee will review its Terms of Reference in line with the new Council term (every 4 years) or as needed.