

## Summary of Key Achievements from The Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy and Action Plan 2018-2022

- Electronic Gaming Machine (EGM) planning restrictions have been embedded into the planning scheme. Council has achieved introduction of a new local Schedule to Clause 52.28 Gaming to guide the appropriate location and operation of electronic gaming machines via Amendment C252wynd<sup>1</sup>.
- Council has welcomed a decision by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) to reject an application for 80 gaming machines in Truganina<sup>2</sup>.
- Council has amended the Community Grants and Subsidies Policy to ensure it complies with the Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy and Action Plan.
- Alternative venues have been and continue to be trialled for Council's social support programs. Lunch With The Bunch (LWTB) runs at two local venues: The Bridge Hotel in Watton Street, Werribee, and The Views in Werribee South. Both venues are free from EGMs.
- Wyndham City Libraries were part of the 'Libraries After Dark' program, an initiative to provide welcoming and inclusive spaces for the community to enjoy during the evening. Libraries After Dark is a Victorian Government funded initiative that seeks to increase social connections and reduce social isolation, an established risk factor for gambling harm.
- As part of the Prevention Partnership Projects funded by the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation, Wyndham City undertook the 'Stepping out! Building stronger social connections for older people, free from gambling harm' which aimed to increase understanding among professionals and volunteers providing social activities for older people in Wyndham of the causes, risks and signs of gambling harm. This project has been successfully completed.

### Advocacy highlights

Wyndham City is represented by Social Policy team on various gaming related policy and coordination forums including the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) Local Government Working Group on Gambling. Since 2017, Wyndham City has also been a member of the Alliance for Gambling Reform (AGR), showing further commitment in the role of minimising the harm associated with gambling. Advocacy highlights include for example:

- Submission to Australian Banking Association's inquiry into credit card use in gambling.
- Letters to Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation and other relevant MPs regarding opportunities for gambling reform in the context of COVID-19. Advocated reforms include: EGM entitlements: considering taking steps for government to offer (conditional) financial support to businesses willing to permanently forgo poker machine entitlements; Victorian Commission for Gambling Liquor Regulation (VCGLR) hearings of gambling (and liquor) applications: given the uncertainty around long-lasting social and economic impacts of COVID-19, imposing moratorium on VCGLR gambling application hearings; On-line gambling advertising: reform of marketing and promotion of on-line gambling products.
- Support of the AGR multi-faceted campaign focused on ending gambling advertisements - ENDGAMBLINGADS.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/building-planning/planning-scheme-amendments/current-planning-scheme-amendments](http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/building-planning/planning-scheme-amendments/current-planning-scheme-amendments)

<sup>2</sup> [www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/news/wyndham-city-has-welcomed-decision-vcats](http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/news/wyndham-city-has-welcomed-decision-vcats)