



Responsible Gambling Bill Information – Summary of Gaming Review Process

part seven **7**

Review Process

The Gaming Review Terms of Reference were released on 5 November 2000.

A discussion document *Gaming Reform in New Zealand: Towards a New Legislative Framework* was released on 28 February 2001.

Some 2,500 copies of the discussion document were initially distributed to key stakeholders, including Members of Parliament, gaming operators, the racing industry, problem gambling treatment service providers, social service agencies, Maori organisations, Pacific and ethnic groups, government departments and local authorities. In addition, over 2,000 letters were sent to a wide range of contacts, notifying them of the document and the consultation process. In total, some 6,500 copies of the discussion document were distributed.

A targeted consultation programme to facilitate participation in the Review comprised: five hui, five fono with Pacific peoples and four meetings with various ethnic communities.

The hui were followed up by two teleconferences among Department of Internal Affairs officials and representatives selected at the hui.

Departmental officials attended public meetings in Christchurch and Hamilton and meetings with stakeholders.

A total of 1280 submissions were received. A synopsis of the submissions was prepared by the National Research Bureau. The main points raised by individuals (in descending order) were:

- problem gambling is growing, it has detrimental effects on families and communities, there should be funding for harm minimisation from gaming operators and/or the government
- gambling has no role in society
- there should be fewer casinos (or none), the number of gaming machines should be capped, gaming is growing unchecked and out of control
- there should be more publicity on the dangers of gambling, there should be more information on odds
- gambling via the Internet and interactive television should be contained or prohibited
- communities should have a real say in casinos and gaming in their area, local councils should have the power to manage or control gaming in their city/district.

The Synopsis and the submissions to the Review are available on the Department's website at www.dia.govt.nz

Since the period for submissions closed, officials from the Department of Internal Affairs have worked with officials from a wide range of Government agencies to develop the policies that underpin the Responsible Gambling Bill.

Agencies that have been involved in some, or all, of the policy development are:

Treasury, Inland Revenue, Prime Minister and Cabinet, Social Policy, Health, Consumer Affairs, State Services Commission, Economic Development, NZ Customs Service, Justice, Education, Foreign Affairs and Trade, Culture and Heritage, Office of Tourism and Sport, NZ Police, Parliamentary Counsel, Te Puni Kokiri, Pacific Island Affairs, Women's Affairs, Youth Affairs, the Senior Citizens Unit, and the Ethnic Affairs Office.

Since the hui, approximately 800 copies of two panui have been sent to iwi, marae, urban and national Maori groups and to 80 attendees at the hui. Another panui will be sent to announce the introduction of the Bill.

The select committee process will provide a further opportunity for the public to have their say.

