

Outline of Submission from BreakEven Secretariat

- Background information on BreakEven Secretariat Representative of all Department of Human Services funded services providing counselling to problem gambler's.

Operated since 1995, regular client survey analysis. Mission statement concentrates on harm minimisation.

- Endorsement of draft report.
Service providers are pleased with the acknowledgment of problem gambling contained in the draft, although we would emphasise the broader non-economic effects, such as family breakdown.

Feedback from recent New Zealand Conference on Compulsive Gambling on the draft report.

- Disagreement with Industry Perspective.
Recent Industry Submission suggests problem gambling irrelevant to the Inquiry, whereas the draft report estimates one-third of revenue is obtained from problem gamblers.
- Breaks in play.
The importance of breaks in play within venues is stressed not just for problem gamblers but for recreational gamblers experiencing problematic episodes. Therefore, access to ATM's and 24 licences are rejected. Cheque payouts for large wins are endorsed.
- Smart Cards
The use of individual smart cards is recommended. Features could include; the ability to precommit gambling limits in hours or dollars; access to gambling history per episode or accumulatively; transaction records; inbuilt prompts on whether to continue play or not; and possible withdrawal for time provided as a self exclusion mechanism.
- Machine modifications
Continuous play, disassociation of dollars from credits and the ability to continue playing from winnings without conscious decision, are problems for many gamblers. Modifications to machines to separate winnings from the stake, displays of actual money staked, and interruptions to provide half hourly status reports on time and money spent, are recommended.

- Other measures

The need for research based interventions for problematic gambling behaviour is recognised by BreakEven . BreakEven counsellors state that they have no self-interest in developing an industry or increasing market share through their submission.

We endorse the Premier's view on the need to restrict misleading advertising.