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**Enquiry type**  
Member feedback

**Enquiry**

The following is my submission to the Gaming Machines Regulation 2019 - the proposed new Gaming Machines Regulation 2019 aims to provide the necessary legislative and administrative framework for the operation of the Gaming Machines Act 2001. Option 3 – Industry self-regulation or co-regulation, self-regulation has never worked in this or any other Country and I whole heartedly support the Departments stance on this.

My primary interest is in trying to ensure that Registered Clubs are not priced out of the market or have to reduce the services they provide. In my experience Registered Clubs provide far more benefits to their members and the community as a whole than any Hotel, particularly in the area of sport and I don't just mean Bowling and Golf Clubs (although their costs are far and away higher than Hotels, which don't have to maintain sporting facilities.) Tying fees to the CPI is likely to put Clubs under unnecessary pressure, because of the cost to maintain sporting facilities. No Hotel provides a Gym or a Squash Court for the general community and in small Country towns these things are vital in maintaining fitness and good health and aren't financially viable for private operators. I don't want to go on and on about this but I urge the Department and the Government to keep these things in mind, the populace will not keep paying more and more to participate in these activities and the general health of the population at large will certainly decline, that is not harm minimisation! I know the main thrust of the harm minimisation is try and help people avoid abuse of gaming machines and the consequent loss of cash and assets, but the community health issues also need to be addressed.

6.3 Gaming machine leasing levy It is proposed that this provision be amended to require that a levy of at least \$1,000 for each year of the lease is paid into the Responsible Gambling Fund for community projects., I have no problem with this, the funding of harm minimisation and treatment services needs to be maintained.

We mustn't lose sight of the fact that people will gamble in one form or another regardless of any regulations and you can't watch over everyone. People make choices and in my experience the majority of Gaming Machine users like to shut themselves off from other patrons and the worries of the world, playing a gaming machine is a way for them to forget their worries and cares and spend some time on their own whilst enjoying the other facilities venues have to offer. Very often it is this detachment that leads to over committing themselves to funding their desire to be alone!

I hope Clubs NSW will consult widely with the Clubs and encourage all Clubs to make submissions on similar lines, particularly those Clubs that support sporting groups and sporting facilities across the State, Clubs just can't keep paying more and more whilst competing with Hotels where the profits go into the owners pocket!

Clubs shouldn't have to employ people to make sure only members and their guests use their facilities, their main opposition (Hotels) don't!

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