

11 December 2020

Dear Policy and Legislation Unit at Liquor and Gaming NSW,

**Submission on the Gaming Machines Amendment (Gambling Harm Minimisation) Bill 2020**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed reforms under the draft Gaming Machines Amendment (Gambling Harm Minimisation) Bill 2020. Domestic Violence NSW is the peak body for specialist domestic and family violence services in NSW. Overall we are supportive of the proposed reforms to reduce harmful gambling, given research shows harmful gambling exacerbates domestic and family violence – including its frequency and severity.<sup>1</sup> With regards to the proposed family-led exclusions, DVNSW recommends targeted consultation with specialist domestic and family violence services before proceeding further with the bill.

Whilst we appreciate that the explanatory paper considers the risk of domestic and family violence, DVNSW considers the proposed protection measures are inadequate. DVNSW notes that family members interviewed for the study were concerned about the possibility of domestic violence and aggression from the person they are concerned about if they were to request a third-party exclusion. We agree with the Alliance for Gambling Reform that families that are struggling with the harm caused by gambling need as much support and help as possible. We do not feel that requiring them to approach venues that have been allowing harmful behaviour to continue is a reasonable solution.

DVNSW considers that it is unacceptable that there is a risk that there would be inadvertent disclosure of a family member’s identity due to the nature of information provided to inform a proposed exclusion order. We strongly support the recommendation of the AGR for independent adjudicators or prioritising the pathway for families to work with gambling counsellors as their advocates, while leaving the option for venue action to remain. Based on independent assessment of the application, venues should have no right to refuse to implement exclusion. There are also insufficient provisions around privacy especially in the case of venues in small communities - this is another reason to not have the venue handle the application.

We strongly support the amendments that would oblige venues to take all reasonable steps to ensure that someone who is self-excluded or venue-excluded does not enter the venue, or does not enter the gambling room. The legislation must include the most basic step of all - the requirement to check a person’s identification against the state-wide exclusion register at the door of the venue or, if relevant, of the gambling room. If the proposal for family-led exclusions proceeds, DVNSW considers that the maximum penalty for unauthorised disclosure of the identities and personal details of family members should be significantly higher than \$5, 500 to reflect the need to ensure strict confidentiality for the safety of people experiencing violence.

Yours sincerely,

Monique Dam

Advocacy and Prevention Manager

Domestic Violence NSW

---

<sup>1</sup> Hing et al, ‘The relationship between gambling and intimate partner violence against women’, Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety (ANROWS), September 2020. <<https://www.anrows.org.au/publication/the-relationship-between-gambling-and-intimate-partner-violence-against-women/>>

About Domestic Violence NSW

<b>CEO</b>	Delia Donovan
<b>Contact details</b>	Domestic Violence NSW PO Box 3311 REDFERN NSW 2016
<b>Telephone</b>	(02) 9698 9777
<b>Email</b>	ceo@dvnsw.org.au
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.dvnsw.org.au">www.dvnsw.org.au</a>

Domestic Violence NSW is the **peak body for specialist domestic and family violence services in NSW**. We have over 80 member organisations across NSW. We work to improve policy, legislative and program responses to domestic and family violence and to eliminate domestic and family violence through advocacy, partnerships and promotion of good practice. We work in close partnership with the DVNSW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women’s steering committee and acknowledge their expertise and advocacy.

Our members represent the diversity of specialist services working in NSW to support women, families and communities impacted by domestic and family violence. Our member organisations include: crisis and refuge services, transitional accommodation and community housing providers, family support services, Aboriginal controlled organisations and specialist CALD organisations, specialist homelessness service providers, men’s behaviour change programs and networks, community organisations working with high risk communities, specialist women’s legal support services, women and children’s support services, and Safe at Home programs. Domestic Violence NSW members are non-government organisations, some entirely government funded, others supported through philanthropic donations or partnerships with industry or the corporate sector.

We acknowledge the work and practice wisdom of specialist women’s services and domestic and family violence practitioners that underpin the recommendations in this submission. We thank the specialist services that have developed best practice over decades of working with women and children and whom shared their expertise with us. We also pay tribute to those who have experienced domestic or family violence and to our advocates, colleagues and partners in government and non-government agencies.

**Members**

Eastlakes Family Support Service Inc  
 Central Tablelands and Blue Mountains Community Legal Centre  
 Hawkesbury Area Women’s & Kids Services Collective  
 Highlands Community Centres Incorporated  
 Housing Plus  
 Illawarra Women’s Health Centre  
 Immigrant Women’s Speakout Assn of NSW  
 Indian (Sub-Cont) Crisis & Support Agency  
 Jenny’s Place  
 Kempsey Families Inc  
 Liberty Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Services  
 Linking Communities Network Ltd  
 Lisa Harnum Foundation  
 Lithgow Community Projects  
 Lokahi Foundation  
 Lucy’s Project  
 Macarthur Women’s DVCAS  
 Manly Warringah Womens Resource Centre  
 Mary’s House  
 Mission Australia  
 Molongo Support Services/ Louisa Domestic Violence Services  
 Mount Druitt Family Violence Service  
 Moving Forward DFV Case Management Services Inc  
 Muslim Women Association  
 No to Violence  
 Northern Rivers WDVCS  
 Nova for Women  
 Open Support (previously Sisters of Charity Outreach)  
 Orana Support Service Incorporated  
 Parramatta Holroyd Family Support  
 Parramatta Mission (SHS Packages)

Peninsula Lighthouse  
Pop In Inc  
Prosper (Project Australia)  
Rape & Domestic Violence Services Australia  
SAHSSI Inc  
Samaritans  
South East Women & Children's Services Inc (SEWACS)  
South West Sydney Legal Centre  
Staying Home Leaving Violence (Broken Hill)  
Sydney Women's Counselling Centre  
The Deli Women & Children's Centre  
The Equanimity Project (Australia) Ltd  
The Marmalade Foundation t/a Lou's Place  
The Northern Centre  
The Salvation Army  
Third Sector Australia t/a Momentum Collective  
Tumut Regional Family Services  
WAGEC  
Warrina D&FV Specialist Service Co-op Ltd  
West Connect Domestic Violence Services  
Women Up North Housing Inc  
Women's Community Shelters  
YWCA Australia  
Mudgin- Gal