

# INFORMATION SHEET

## GAMBLING INFORMATION RESOURCE OFFICE

### Victoria's regulated gambling environment: a short introduction

Different forms of gambling are legalised or prohibited by Victorian and Commonwealth legislation.

The Victorian *Gambling Regulation Act 2003* legalises gambling on poker machines, keno, lotteries and bingo while the *Casino Control Act 1991* legalises gambling on casino games at the Crown Casino.

The Commonwealth *Interactive Gambling Act 2001* legalises online sports betting and online wagering in Australia from licensed providers, however, it prohibits the provision of other forms of online gambling such as pokie machines and casino games. Victoria's *Gambling Regulation Act* also applies to some aspects of online bookmaking (wagering and sports betting) offered to Victorian residents by interstate bookmakers.

**The following forms of gambling are legal in Victoria: pokie machines, casino games, wagering, sports betting, Keno, lotteries and bingo. All of these forms of gambling are regulated in Victoria.**

In Victoria, the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR) is authorised to regulate gambling in clubs, hotels and the Crown Casino as well as sports betting and wagering. Gambling businesses or activities need the VCGLR's permission to operate in Victoria.



The offices of the Minister for Gaming and Liquor Regulation and the Minister for Racing are responsible for developing and implementing policies on gambling as well as amending the legislative framework in Victoria as required.

# VICTORIA'S GAMBLING ENVIRONMENT

## Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR)

The VCGLR is responsible for:



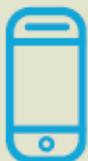
### **EGMs (pokies)**

242 clubs (12,738 machines)  
264 hotels (13,526 machines)  
Casino (2,628 machines)  
A total of 26,264 pokie machines



### **Wagering**

There are 738 TAB outlets in clubs,  
hotels and TAB agencies in Vic.  
Online and phone betting is also  
available



### **Online sports betting**

Various sites operate locally  
(Tabcorp), interstate (Crownbet and  
Sportbet), as well as internationally



### **Bingo**

Used by charities and  
community organisations



### **Lotteries**

Victoria has 788 Tattersalls outlets



### **Keno**

Keno is accessible at 670 locations,  
including clubs, hotels and TAB  
outlets

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VCGLR data at August 7, 2015

Prepared by Gambling Information Resource Office

<http://www.responsiblegambling.vic.gov.au/information-and-resources>

## Poker machines

Electronic Gaming Machines (EGMs), also known as pokies, are controlled by a computer program that generates thousands of random combinations every second. To place a bet on a pokie machine you must insert cash into the machine and press the button. The machine will randomly determine the position of symbols on the game and generate one outcome. If the machine determines a win, credits are paid. If not, the machine continues to generate outcomes until the button is pressed again.

At 30 June 2015 there were 28,892 pokie machines in Victoria located amongst 506 clubs and hotels, and the single licensed casino provider – Crown Casino. No venue apart from Crown Casino is permitted to have more than 105 pokie machines.

Pokies are owned and operated by the local venue. Venue operators must apply to the VCGLR for a license to operate pokie machines and to their local council for a planning permit.

Pokie machines are most associated with gambling problems with 91 per cent of problem gamblers surveyed in 2009 reporting gambling on pokie machines in the previous 12 months (Department of Justice, 2009). This high rate of participation among problem gamblers is reflected in the regulatory attention pokie machines receive in Victoria.

## Casino games

Casino games including poker, roulette, baccarat, blackjack and craps are offered by the single licensee in Victoria – Crown Casino.

Crown Casino operates 440 gaming tables and 100 poker tables as well as 2,628 pokie machines.

Crown Casino is regulated under separate legislation than clubs and hotels in Victoria – the *Casino Control Act 1991*. Although Crown Casino is required to follow the same standards and requirements as other gaming venues, there are some exceptions. For example, smoking is permitted in high roller areas, the casino operates 24 hours a day, table games are provided and some pokie machines can offer higher bet limits.

## Wagering

Wagering is the placing of a bet on racing, sports and other approved events.

In Victoria, wagering on horse and greyhound races is offered on-course, by bookmakers at a racetrack, and off-course by Tabcorp Wagering (Vic) Pty Ltd (Tabcorp) at hotels, clubs and TAB agencies. Tabcorp is licensed until 2024 to operate the only off-course wagering retail network in Victoria. Tabcorp's licence also allows it to accept bets online or by telephone. At 31 May 2015, there were 738 TAB outlets in Victoria.

## Online Sports betting

A wager on approved sporting events can be made online or using interactive television.

In Victoria, sports betting providers (ie. Tabcorp, Crownbet, Sportbet) may not offer bets on Victorian sporting events without a written agreement from the relevant sports controlling body (e.g. Cricket Australia) or a determination by the VCGLR. In Victoria, sports betting is legal on any event where approval has been given by the VCGLR.

Sports betting can be offered by the wagering provider (Tabcorp) or other sports betting companies licensed in an Australian jurisdiction. The VCGLR must approve sports for both fixed odds and totalisator betting.

## Keno

Keno is a rapid-draw game in which a set of numbers is drawn through a random number generator from a pool of numbers. The numbers are then posted electronically in venues.

In Victoria, Keno can only be offered by Tabcorp Investments No.5 Pty Ltd (Tabcorp). Tabcorp is authorised to provide Keno in eligible hotels, clubs and TAB agencies across Victoria under a 10 year license (ending in 2022).

Unlike pokie machines, Keno is not restricted to the gaming area of a hotel or club. At 31 May 2015, there were 670 Keno outlets in Victoria.

## Lottery

A lottery is a rapid draw game where a set of numbers is drawn through a random number generator. The only public lottery licence in Victoria is held by Tattersall's Sweeps Pty Ltd (Tattersall's).

Tattersall's is authorised to offer Tattslotto, Oz Lotto, Powerball, Super 66, The Pools, Monday and Wednesday Lotto, Lucky Lotteries, and instant scratchies.

These lotteries are only available from Tatts outlets. At 31 May 2015, there were 788 Tatts outlets in Victoria.

## Bingo

Bingo is a form of minor gaming. Players receive a ticket(s) with randomly numbered squares, then players mark off the numbers as they are randomly drawn and announced. To win, a player must be the first to mark off all numbers on their ticket and call 'line', 'pattern', or 'bingo.'

Bingo may only be conducted for fundraising purposes by organisations declared (registered) by the VCGLR as a community or charitable organisation. A licensed bingo centre operator can also run bingo sessions on behalf of a declared community or charitable organisation.

Bingo centre operators must be licensed by the VCGLR.

## More information

Department of Justice (2009). *A study of Gambling in Victoria: problem gambling from a public health perspective*, State of Victoria.

Gambling Information Resource Office (GIRO), [Victoria's gambling environment](#)

Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR), [Existing licensees](#)

**Last updated August 2015**