

LICENSING, REGULATION AND ALCOHOL STRATEGY

Community Gaming in the Northern Territory

1. What is it all about?

The *Gaming Control Act* is the law which governs gaming activities in the Northern Territory.

The objects of this Act are –

- a) to promote probity and integrity in gaming;
- b) to maintain the probity and integrity of persons engaged in gaming in the Territory;
- c) to promote fairness, integrity and efficiency in the operations of persons engaged in gaming in the Territory;
- d) to reduce any adverse social impact of gaming; and
- e) to promote a balanced contribution by the gaming industry to general community benefit and amenity.

The Gaming Control (Community Gaming) Regulations, which regulate *Gaming Control Act*, provide guidelines and procedures on how community gaming activities are conducted in the Northern Territory.

The new Gaming Control (Community Gaming) Regulations of the *Gaming Control Act* simplify and clarify guidelines and procedures that have been in place since the early 1990's.

The Regulations provide legal guidelines as to how lotteries, raffles, lotto, tipping competitions, bingo, Calcuttas and sweepstakes can be conducted in the Northern Territory.

There are a range of community gaming activities that do and do not require a permit in the Northern Territory.

The new regulations introduce a complaint management process. If a person is dissatisfied with the conduct of a lottery, a complaint can be lodged with the Director of Licensing and the complaint will be investigated and resolved.

The Regulations substantially increase the threshold at which a lottery permit is required, from \$600 in ticket sales to \$5,001 in ticket sales, reducing the administrative burden on approved associations.

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They simplify and reduce the red tape associated with the operation of trade lotteries, while increasing transparency and accountability for all fundraising activities that involve gaming.

This should increase the confidence of the public that lotteries and gaming-related fund raising activities are being operated honestly, and that there is an appropriate mechanism for the resolution of complaints and disputes.

Provides a Schedule of Prohibited Games.

2. Who can participate?

Only approved associations may conduct lotteries for fund raising purposes, as has been the case for a very long time. There are hundreds of associations already approved in the Territory, which have been successfully conducting lotteries for many years.

In order to be approved, an association must apply to the Director of Licensing. You need not be an incorporated association, but you must have a suitable constitution, identify your office holders and nominate a person to be responsible for conducting lotteries.

There is no fee for approval. An application form to become an approved association is on the [Licensing, Regulation and Alcohol Strategy \(LRAS\)](#) website, or from your nearest Territory Business Centre.

Once approved, an association may operate raffles, lotteries, Calcuttas, sweepstakes, bingo, tipping competitions and other games without permit, provided that total ticket sales do not exceed \$5,000. Permits are required for larger lotteries.

Previously, associations required a permit if ticket sales were expected to exceed \$600.

3. Community gaming not requiring a permit

An Approved Association may conduct the following without a permit:

- Sweepstakes, Calcuttas and Bingo.
- Free entry lottery with prize less than or equal to \leq \$2,000
- Raffles with ticket sales \leq \$5,000
- Mini Lotto with a prize \leq \$5,000
- Tipping Competition with prize \leq \$5,000

For an Approved Association or business in the NT:

- Minor Trade Lottery with prize \leq \$5,000.

4. Community gaming requiring a permit

For an Approved Association:

- Minor Lottery with ticket sales \geq \$5,001 and \leq \$20,000.
- Major Lottery with Ticket sales $>$ \$20,000.

For an Approved Association or business:

- Major Trade Lottery with prize > \$5,000.

For a business:

- Interstate Trade Lottery without a current interstate Trade Lottery Permit.

5. Other conditions of approval

The approved association or business must not contravene the Act or Regulations.

The Director of Licensing must be notified if there are any changes to the approved association e.g. authorised person, changes to constitution, changes to association details, object or purposes etc.

Notify the Director of the authorised person not later than 14 days after the annual general meeting.