

STATE BUDGET

2018-19

ATTORNEY-GENERAL VICKIE CHAPMAN MP MEDIA RELEASE

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Reforming the administration of gambling

“The first Marshall Liberal Government Budget will deliver substantial and long delayed reform to the administration of the gambling industry in South Australia,” said Attorney-General Vickie Chapman.

“The 2018-19 State Budget establishes the Liquor and Gambling Commissioner as the sole regulator of gambling and dissolves the Independent Gambling Authority (IGA) and its Board.”

The Commissioner, through Consumer and Business Services (CBS), currently undertakes the day-to-day administrative arrangements and compliance functions relating to commercial gambling.

Under the changes the Commissioner will also be responsible for developing strategies to reduce gambling related harm, work previously undertaken by the IGA.

The consolidation of the IGA within CBS will produce a \$1.7 million saving for the taxpayer over the forward estimates.

These reforms are based on recommendations of the Administrative Review of Gambling Regulation in South Australia prepared by the Hon. Tim Anderson QC in 2016.

Mr Anderson noted in his Report that: *The submissions I have received from respondents conclusively, with the exception of the Board of the IGA, favour there being a single regulator in South Australia.*

Industry and stakeholders are frustrated and confused by dual regulatory arrangements and the Commissioner’s subordinate role to the Independent Gambling Authority (IGA); and

There is often considerable disparity in the information requested to be provided by the two regulatory bodies and it is difficult to reconcile the basis for such significant differences.

“Mr Anderson’s comments highlight the importance of establishing a single regulator for the commercial gambling industry,” said Attorney-General Vickie Chapman.

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The revision of liquor licensing fees in the 2018-19 State Budget, informed by the recommendations of the Anderson Review into the South Australian Liquor Licensing Act 1997, will raise \$3.2 million per annum from 2019-20.

The 2018-19 State Budget also provides \$200,000 per annum from 2019-20 for the establishment of a Harm Minimisation Fund to support education and rehabilitation services.

The reform of liquor and gambling regulation is part of the Liberal Government's plan to meet the \$715 million savings task by 2021-22 left by the former Labor government and to deliver the new State Government's priorities.