



DEPARTMENT OF RACING,  
GAMING AND LIQUOR

# RGL FORM



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WINTER 2009  
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All licensees should by now have received their copy of the updated guide to liquor licensing which serves as a quick-reference guide to the Liquor Control Act 1988.

## Liquor licensing CD provides fingertip reference guide

The Department recently distributed the latest version of A Guide to Liquor Licensing in WA publication.

This version replaces the previous "green booklet" that was distributed in 2007, shortly after the Liquor Reforms were introduced.

The CD provides a handy guide to licensees on the more common aspects of the Liquor Control Act 1988, and is less cumbersome than the paper version it replaces.

This will be one of the last major mail-outs by the Department as most future communication with licensees and other stakeholders will be done electronically.

It is imperative that the Department has licensees' contact email address as this will lead to a more immediate and efficient communication system.

Similarly, all licensees are encouraged to regularly check the Department's website for the latest news on all issues that affect them.

## Reminder to update your details with the Department

As part of the Department's plan to reduce the amount of paper-based correspondence, most future communication with licensees and other stakeholders will be done electronically.

It is imperative that the Department has your current contact email address as this will lead to a more immediate and efficient communication system.

Similarly, all licensees are encouraged to regularly check the Department's website for the latest news on issues that affect liquor licensees.

The website also includes a number of fact sheets that explore the more common areas of the Act. These will be added to as the need arises.

Licensees and other stakeholders are urged to check that the email address they have registered with the Department is current, and is one that is checked regularly.

For more information please call the Department's customer service team on 9425 1888.



The Productivity Commission's inquiry into Australia's Gambling Industries provides a snapshot of the country's gambling industry.

## State responds to national inquiry

The Department recently responded, on the Government's behalf, to the Productivity Commission's inquiry into Australia's Gambling Industries.

The inquiry, which was last carried out in 1998, was commissioned to provide the Federal Government with an up-to-date "snapshot" of the gambling industry.

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## *State responds to national inquiry continued:*

The Western Australian response highlighted the legislative framework that is in place throughout the State.

### **Essentially, the framework works to:**

- Prevent criminal interests from operating gaming activities;
- Maintain the integrity of permitted gaming and contain its social costs;
- Ensure legal betting satisfies the recreational interests of the public without adversely impacting on the community or racing industry;
- Provide a controlled environment in which the different forms of gambling can be conducted; and
- Ensure gambling profits are returned to the Western Australian community.

The report made reference to Western Australia's no "pokie" machine policy, noting that it was the only State in Australia to take such a strong stance.

It also highlighted the possible risk of online betting operations that could serve to undermine the State's harm-prevention framework.

It said the introduction of interactive online gaming machines into Western Australian homes would "seriously undermine the WA Government's prohibition on poker machines and policy of limiting the extent and character of gaming machine technology".

The prohibition on pokie machines has had bi-partisan political support from Western Australian governments since the issue came to light.

The conference was held at the Sheraton Perth Hotel and saw a number of guest speakers share their experiences with their peers.

Delegates came from as far as Macau, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand.

Western Australia last hosted the conference in 2000.



Responsible Gambling Awareness Week highlights the services available for problem gamblers and their families.



Perth recently hosted the Australasian Casino and Gaming Regulators Conference.

## *Conference attracts cream of regulating crop*

Perth was the venue for the recent Australasian Casino and Gaming Regulators' Conference.

The two-day conference, held on May 21 and 22, attracted about 60 delegates from across Australia, the Pacific and Asia who met to discuss the various issues facing gaming and casino regulators.

## *Responsible Gambling Awareness Week*

Responsible Gambling Awareness Week was held between June 22 and 28 and provided the opportunity for industry to highlight its responsible gambling initiatives.

The week also helped members of the public identify the risks associated with problem gambling, how to prevent a problem before it occurred, and where to look in search of support services.

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## *Responsible Gambling Awareness Week continued:*

During the week, stakeholders were given the opportunity to highlight their contribution to help prevent problem gambling.

The collaboration of the gambling industry, health services and government agencies demonstrated a united commitment to responsible gambling.

This year's Responsible Gambling Awareness Week adopted the phrase "Know Your Limit, Play Within It", and each stakeholder promoted the message.

Participants in the initiative included the Gaming and Wagering Commission of Western Australia, Burswood Entertainment Complex, Racing and Wagering Western Australia, Lotterywest and Centrecare.

For more information on Responsible Gambling Awareness visit [www.gambleaware.com.au](http://www.gambleaware.com.au)

## *Documents that need to be displayed or made available on request*

The Department regularly receives inquiries from liquor licensees in relation to what documents should be on public display, or readily available for inspection, at their premises.

The Liquor Control Act 1988 states the following documents should be clearly displayed in a prominent position at the licensed premises:

- A sign, with lettering measuring at least 3cm in height, showing the name of the premises, licence type, name of licensee and approved manager (to be displayed at the entrance of the premises);
- Full licence document, including any associated permits; and
- The House Management Policy and Code of Conduct.



All licensees must comply with the regulations governing the type of documents on display at their premises

The licensee must also keep and maintain the following documents on the premises:

- Incident register – this must contain details of all "incidents" that have taken place at the venue. This includes incidents such as the refusal by staff to serve intoxicated patrons;
- Training register – this document must contain all details pertaining to training undertaken by staff members.
- Register of all members (for club licences only); and
- Approved plan of the licensed premises that clearly shows the areas that are licensed to sell/supply/consume liquor.

Various financial penalties apply for the failure to comply with the above – visit the Department's website for more information.



There have been some changes in the application process for ETPs, including liquor without a meal permits.

## *Changes to ETP and small bar applications*

There have been some changes to the way extended trading permits (ETPs) for Ongoing Hours and Liquor Without a Meal permits are processed in relation to the grant of new licences.

Previously, new licence applicants could also apply for an ETP at the same time (that is, before the actual licence was granted). Apart from exceptional circumstances, this is no longer the case.

People applying for licenses must wait for that application to be determined by the liquor licensing authority before applying for any associated ETPs.

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## *Changes to ETP and small bar applications continued:*

This essentially means that in applying for an ETP, new licensees will be treated the same as an existing licensee, and the ETP application will need to have the appropriate documentation lodged before processing can be undertaken. This includes the lodgement of a separate Public Interest Assessment (PIA).

This also applies to applications for the removal of a licence – once the removal has been approved, the licensee can then apply for an ETP. Again, a new PIA should be completed relevant to the ETP.

This only applies to Ongoing Hours and Liquor Without a Meal permits, all other ETP application processes remain the same.

Furthermore, new applications for small bar licences are no longer accepted by the Department without the appropriate local government planning approval (section 40).

After the introduction of the licence category in 2007, the Director of Liquor Licensing announced a two-year concession for applicants when it came to lodging applications without the necessary s40 clearance. That meant applications would still be accepted without the s40 documentation (although they could not be finalised until the s40 was received by the Department).

All small bar applications now need to be accompanied by s40 documentation in line with other licence applications.

For more information on any of the above issues, call one of the Department's customer service officers on 9425 1888.

## *Legislation to benefit State's racing industry*

The State's racing industry should soon benefit from legislation that will require all licensed betting operators to pay a turnover-based fee for using Western Australian race fields.

It follows a similar move by a number of eastern states governments which has seen the introduction of a fee for bookmakers who accept bets on race fields in those states.

The legislation will authorise wagering operators licensed in Australia to engage in or conduct betting on Western Australian race fields subject to:

- The payment of a levy (to be determined) to the Gaming and Wagering Commission for the use of the information (that will be distributed to racing clubs registered with RWWA); and
- Wagering operators complying with information requirements in relation to matters concerning the integrity and reputation of the racing industry.



All licensed betting operators will be required to pay a turnover-based fee to use WA race fields

The amendment to the Betting Control Act 1954 will establish a legislative framework governing the publication and use of Western Australian race fields that does not provide preferential treatment to any betting operator.

The commencement date for payment of a product fee in WA will be backdated to coincide with its introduction in other jurisdictions on September 1, 2008.

A trust account will be established under the Gaming and Wagering Commission Act 1987 for the collection and disbursement of fees to WA racing clubs that are registered with RWWA.

If licensed betting operators pay the product fee and provide the appropriate information to maintain integrity in the industry, they would not be required to obtain permission to use WA race fields.

They will also be able to advertise in Western Australia, however overseas betting operators will continue to be prohibited from advertising in WA.

The Bill is scheduled to be tabled in Parliament later this year.