

WE REGULATE CASINOS IN NSW

Recent casino inquiries revealed serious misconduct and highlighted the need for closer regulatory supervision of the casino industry in NSW. On 5 September 2022, amendments to the *Casino Control Act 1992* established the NSW Independent Casino Commission (NICC) as an independent, standalone and specialist casino regulator.

The newly formed NICC exercises its functions independently of government departments and has a dedicated staff agency to provide administrative and advisory support. While the NICC is a separate entity, it remains connected to Liquor & Gaming NSW through the many delegated roles that undertake casino supervision on its behalf.

The NICC has sole responsibility for supervising NSW's two casinos and aims to make fair and transparent decisions under the Act. The NICC will play a vital role in maintaining public confidence in the NSW casino industry through visible and robust supervision.

OUR VISION

NSW casinos uphold community expectations through safe, responsible, and compliant operations that are resistant to criminal infiltration and capable of minimising gambling harm.

OUR MISSION

The NICC is an independent, effective, and trusted casino regulator, equipped to minimise risks and harm and maximise the accountability of casinos

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

MONITORING AND
ENFORCING
CASINO
COMPLIANCE



The NICC is responsible for ensuring casino operators prevent gambling harm, money laundering and terrorism financing activities. The NICC is tasked with monitoring and enforcing casino compliance and is authorised to take strong disciplinary action in response to serious, deliberate or repeated contraventions and to conduct periodic reviews of casino licences with Royal Commission-like powers.

PROMOTING FAIR
AND
TRANSPARENT
DECISION MAKING



In undertaking its statutory functions, the NICC must promote fair and transparent decision-making, guided by the objects of the Act. The NICC makes decisions independently of government and must put in place robust yet efficient internal processes to build public confidence in its activities and the conduct of its commissioners.

LIFTING STANDARDS
THROUGH CLEAR
REGULATORY
OBJECTIVES



The NICC's regulatory responsibilities are to lift standards in casino operations to ensure NSW casinos are safe, compliant, and responsible. The NICC will uphold community expectations by overseeing NSW casinos so they are resistant to criminal infiltration and equipped to minimise gambling harm.

WORKING
COLLABORATIVELY
TO PERFORM OUR
STATUTORY FUNCTIONS



The NICC collaborates with regulators, industry and other stakeholders to perform its statutory functions effectively. This includes managing delegations to specialist Liquor & Gaming NSW staff as well as sharing information with other regulators and collaborating with law enforcement. The NICC's relationships with delegated staff, independent advisors, and government agencies assist the NICC to supervise casino operations, develop insights into risks, and build expertise.

EXERCISING OUR
POWERS WITH
INDEPENDENCE
AND INTEGRITY



The NICC has a range of statutory powers to ensure the management and operation of NSW casinos is free from criminal influence or exploitation, gaming is conducted honestly, and harm to individuals and their families is minimised. The NICC must ensure these powers are exercised appropriately and the casino supervisory fund is used responsibly.

FOCUS AREA 1: Establish the NICC's independence

Establish and maintain the NICC's independence and demonstrate accountability and transparency in interactions with casinos, stakeholders and the public.



1A Open and accountable governance

Establish and publish guidelines and governance material outlining the NICC's independence, who we are and how we work, so stakeholders can hold us accountable.



1B Clear and consistent messaging

Be clear and consistent in our messaging to casinos, stakeholders and the community, reducing the risk of regulatory capture and positioning the NICC as open, accountable and transparent.



1C Appropriate resourcing

Review and adjust our resourcing to ensure the NICC and its delegates are appropriately equipped and specialist, designing our priorities and budget for maximum effectiveness.



1D Implement the Bell and Bergin findings

Finalise the implementation of any outstanding recommendations from the Bell and Bergin reports and consider other emerging issues for future action.

FOCUS AREA 2: Set the right standards

Establish and maintain regulatory controls to ensure compliance with the Act, prevent money laundering and criminal activity and minimise gambling harms.



2A Establish regulatory controls

Establish regulatory controls that reduce risk, promote compliance with the legislation and help us to identify and respond to breaches.



2B Facillitate breach reporting

Support the development of improved breach reporting platforms to make it easier for casinos, other regulators and the public to notify or make a public interest disclosure to us.



2C Expand oversight of risks

Expand our oversight of financial crime risks through the establishment of mechanisms that increase the NICC's surveillance and data collection capacities.



2D Standardise compliance

Promote best practice in compliance standards, expectations and obligations across NSW casinos and work closely with interstate regulators to share learnings and close regulatory gaps.

FOCUS AREA 3: Provide robust supervision

Supervise NSW's casinos and strengthen their capability to meet regulatory and community expectations.



3A Establish compliance thresholds

Develop and supervise the effectiveness of casino internal control manuals and standard operating procedures to set compliance thresholds geared towards achieving and maintaining suitability.



3B Build resistance

Ensure casinos have the governance, expertise, capacity and operational frameworks to resist criminal infiltration and conduct gaming honestly and compliantly.



3C Mitigate harms

Protect the public interest by addressing risks associated with gaming and liquor, including harms to minors, through better, safer, systems and protocols, applying a disciplinary response when necessary.



3D Enhance due diligence

Strengthen due diligence around casino customers and close associates to ensure NSW casinos are free from criminal influence or exploitation.

FOCUS AREA 4: Address emerging risks

Identify and respond to emerging risks in modern casino operating environments and intersecting industries.



4A Invest in relationships

Develop a stakeholder engagement strategy to establish channels for information sharing and obstruct the mobility of criminals across jurisdictions with different regulatory structures and settings.



4B Prepare for future phases

Build our internal capabilities to maintain effective regulatory supervision past the remediation and suitability phases, into long-term sustainability.



4C Establish the Gambling Harm Advisory Committee

Establish a Gambling Harm Minimisation Advisory Committee consisting of experts and individuals with lived experience of gambling harms who will provide input into practical harm minimisation measures.



4D Obtain better data

Obtain better data and deeper insights, increasing our ability to measure harm, enabling the transfer of information, and identifying intersecting issues across the liquor and gaming industries.

KEY ENABLERS

STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT

The NICC manages risks to its operational abilities through strategic planning and governance and a comprehensive risk framework, which is monitored by an independent audit and risk committee.

RIGHT TOUCH REGULATION

The NICC is empowered to apply a range of regulatory and disciplinary tools to meet the objects of the Act. The NICC will use these tools to monitor and develop casino capability and to contain and control the potential for casinos to cause harm to individuals, families and the community.

EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Working in partnership is key to the NICC's capacity for oversight and its ability to make informed decisions. The NICC will create links that enable better, more connected regulation, working closely with Liquor & Gaming NSW, and cooperatively with state and federal regulators, to increase the reach and impact of its activities.

INTEL AND ACCESS

The NICC continually assesses the level and quality of intelligence it receives to facilitate ongoing improvement and meet the complexities of regulation in a modern environment. The NICC's access to intelligence is crucial to analysing, understanding and responding to developing risks in casino operations.

OUR PEOPLE

The NICC is comprised of five commissioners and eleven administrative staff whose talents and energy are vital to the NICC's success. The NICC will ensure its members and staff have access to a range of training and education opportunities that enable the NICC to advance its position as a specialist casino regulator.

MONITORING OUR STRATEGY

DELIVERY REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT

AUDITS AND MINISTERIAL REPORTS