



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 64

## WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Paech to the Minister for Racing, Hon Marie-Clare Boothby MLA:

### **Gambling Activities in Alice Springs**

- 1. Have there been any incidents or concerns reported to the regulator regarding the Alice Springs casino, Delaware North Darwin or Iris-owned hotels within the past two years?**

Several gambling-related incidents/concerns relating to the Iris owned Lasseters Hotel Casino and the Delaware North owned Mindil Beach Casino Resort have been addressed directly to Licensing NT since May 2023.

No gambling-related incidents/concerns relating to any other Iris owned hotels in the Northern Territory (NT) have been addressed to Licensing NT since May 2023.

Nothing has been received by the Director since May 2023.

- 2. What is the nature of these reported issues?**

- 1) Technical issues with gaming machines. No issues or concerns were identified regarding the integrity or operation of the machines.
- 2) Alleged underpayment, later disproven via security video footage.
- 3) Customer service concerns.

- 3. How many reports have been filed during this period?**

Seven.

- 4. What is the annual revenue generated by Iris Capital from gambling operations in Alice Springs, including its casino and hotels?**

Refer to gaming revenue/player loss reported in budget papers and annual reports.

**5. What is the total revenue earned annually from gambling activities by pubs, clubs, and the casino in Alice Spring and Darwin?**

Refer to gaming revenue/player loss reported in budget papers and annual reports.

**6. Have there been any investigations conducted to identify the demographics of gamblers in the region?**

Yes. Socio-demographic data on gamblers across the NT has been collected through gambling prevalence and wellbeing surveys conducted in 2005, 2015, 2018 and 2023. Reports for the 2005, 2015 and 2018 surveys are available at <https://dth.nt.gov.au/publications/racing-gaming-and-licensing/gambling-research>. The final report for the 2023 survey from when you were Minister has just been provided to the Department and not yet cleared to be posted on the website.

**7. Is the Government planning to undertake any studies or investigations into gambling trends in Alice Springs to determine whether harm-reduction measures could be implemented?**

No Alice Springs-focused gambling studies or investigations were commissioned when you were the Minister responsible. A copy of Government funded gambling research reports are available at <https://dth.nt.gov.au/publications/racing-gaming-and-licensing/gambling-research>.

Through Community Benefit Fund (CBF) grants, there are currently two Government funded gambling-related research projects underway. One is focused on generating evidence for policies and practices that better support NT individuals, their families and friends to recover from gambling harms, and the other on developing and evaluating social marketing resources to minimise gambling harm across young gamers in the NT. Government also funds, through CBF gambling amelioration grants, a range of interventions across the NT aimed at reducing problem gambling and minimising harms that result from gambling, including community awareness and education, counselling, rehabilitation, and support services.