
NORTHERN TERRITORY RACING COMMISSION

THE 2016 NORTHERN TERRITORY BOOKMAKERS FORUM

The Northern Territory Racing Commission (NTRC) held its Bi-Annual Bookmakers Forum (Forum) in Alice Springs on 29 April 2016.

The Forum saw a number of guest speakers discuss a range of topical issues and challenges facing the industry.

Mr Jamie Nettleton from Addisons Lawyers spoke on the release of the final report of the Review of Illegal Offshore Wagering - provided to the Minister for Communication and the Arts by Lead Reviewer, The Hon. Barry O'Farrell dated 18 December 2015. The review was publicly released on 28 April 2016 and Mr Nettleton was able to provide a high level overview of the key findings and recommendations arising from it.

Mr Damian Voltz spoke on behalf of the National Integrity of Sport Unit (NISU) who provided an overview of the roles and responsibilities of NISU and explained how the sports bookmaker industry has a very important role to play in relation to sports integrity.

Mr Bronte Campbell from Sportsbet addressed the Forum on the practicalities of Responsible Service of Gambling and the potential to lead the Australian industry with an extensive self-exclusion register. Mr Campbell noted that the current environment offered all Territory licensed bookmakers an excellent opportunity to work collaboratively with the Northern Territory Government and the NTRC to develop and implement a multi-operator self-exclusion register.

Mr John Sealy from Licensing NT presented information about compliance expectations, specifically the annual information security management system audit requirement. Of note was the development of a licensee web portal which will allow for better communication between the regulator and licensees. The portal will facilitate applications, renewals, submissions and various other matters.

COMMENCEMENT OF UPDATED CONDITIONS AND ONLINE CODE OF PRACTICE

The Licensing Terms and Conditions which were discussed and agreed during the 2014 Sports Bookmaker Forum commenced on 1 July 2015. In addition, the Code of Practice for Responsible Online Gambling commenced on 1 April 2016 and applies to all Licensees.

NET ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO THE TERRITORY

The Minister for Racing Gaming and Licensing issued a direction to the NTRC, under his powers in the *Racing and Betting Act* that it must take into account the economic benefit to the Territory when considering licence applications and renewals. To that extent all Bookmakers were encouraged to consider and put forward proposals as to how they may be able to enhance the economic benefit to the Territory while being licensed here. Matters such as implementing traineeships, internships, and scholarships could be some of the benefits that licensees and prospective licensees consider proposing.

RACING AND BETTING ACT

A review of the *Racing and Betting Act* for a more contemporised legislative framework was discussed and the Department of Business, in discussion with the NT Government had commenced the drafting of new legislation.