



## Industry Newsletter: Gambling and Liquor

An update from ACT Gambling and Racing Commission  
and the ACT Commissioner for Fair Trading

As we reach the close of the 2025–26 financial year and look ahead to the start of a new one, we recognise this is a particularly busy period across the gambling and liquor industries. The end of financial year brings reporting obligations and planning for the year ahead, and we thank you for your continued commitment and professionalism.

This edition of the newsletter also marks an important leadership transition. As the current CEO this will be my final newsletter as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Gambling and Racing Commission. I have enjoyed this taking on this interim role over the last 9 months.

At the same time, I warmly welcome back Giuseppe Mangeruca into the CEO role. We look forward to his leadership as we continue to work collaboratively with industry to support a safe, compliant and well-regulated environment.

As always, this newsletter provides key updates, insights and reminders to assist you through this period and into the new financial year.

**Josh Rynehart**

Commissioner for Fair Trading

**Derise Cubin**

CEO - ACT Gambling and Racing Commission

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## Gambling Harm Action Week 2026

Planning is underway for Gambling Harm Action Week 2026, which will run from  
**Monday 19 October to Sunday 25 October.**

Gambling Harm Action Week is an annual initiative of the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission. It raises awareness of the harms associated with gambling and encourages collective action to prevent and reduce these harms.

The theme for 2026 is: **‘We all play a role in preventing gambling harm.’**

This year’s campaign focuses on shared responsibility. It highlights the important roles played across regulation, the gambling industry, support services, communities and individuals. Now is a good time to mark your calendars and start planning how your organisation can support Gambling Harm Action Week.

The Commission will again provide digital and printed campaign packs to local gambling venues in the lead up to Gambling Harm Action Week. These resources will support venues to promote campaign messages with staff and patrons.

The Commission is also planning a launch event for **Monday 19 October**. More details will be shared closer to date. You can also stay up to date with campaign developments on the [ACT Gambling and Racing Commission’s website](#).

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## Community Grants Program

The **Gambling Harm Prevention and Mitigation Community Grants Program** can help bring your ideas to life. It is open year-round and offers grants of up to \$10,000 for community-led projects that help prevent and reduce gambling harm in the ACT.

**Check the grant requirements and your eligibility**

# GAMBLING CAN HARM ANYONE

CONNECT WITH WHAT REALLY MATTERS



## Proactive compliance program updates

The Gambling and Racing Commission have recently published summaries of 2 proactive compliance programs: the [2024-25 Community Contributions Program](#) and the [2025-26 Electronic Gaming Machine Compliance Program](#). Together, these initiatives reflect the Commission's commitment to ensuring ongoing compliance with harm minimisation requirements and strengthening industry's understanding of obligations to help support improved outcomes for the community.

The **Electronic Gaming Machine Compliance Program** included inspections of 647 gaming machines across 32 venues, assessing compliance with key legislative requirements such as return-to-player (RTP) settings, signage, note acceptors, and gambling harm minimisation measures including procedures and practices relating to ATM and EFTPOS access.

The program identified a non-compliance rate of 9.3%, a significant improvement from a non-compliance rate of 23% in 2024-25. Most issues related to signage, with a small number concerning RTP settings; however, all machines exceeded the minimum legislated RTP requirement of 87%.

Thank you to all licensees for working with the Commission to rectify identified non-compliance. Please continue to be diligent and ensure that the required gaming machine signs are displayed. These are harm minimisation measures that

provide important information and avenues for supports to patrons.

Separately, non-compliance with section 62A of the [Gaming Machine Regulation 2004](#) was also identified. As a reminder, all authorised venues with more than 20 gaming machines must only have 1 EFTPOS facility at the premises and EFPTOS cash withdrawals must not exceed \$200.

The **Community Contributions Program** focused on club licensees' understanding of, and compliance with, reporting obligations under the Community Contributions Scheme. Engagement with 19 club licensees helped establish a baseline across the industry and highlighted common challenges with reporting practices and transparency. These included inconsistencies in how contributions were recorded, calculated, and published. In response, the Commission will continue to take proactive steps to clarify expectations and better support licensees in meeting their obligations.

The Commission continues to improve its internal mechanisms to improve compliance with its own obligations and explore ways to make it easier for licensees to provide required information.

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## Seafood labelling changes – what ACT venues need to know

From 1 July 2026, new labelling rules will require hospitality businesses to label dishes containing seafood with country-of-origin information. These new rules apply across Australia and aim to facilitate consumer choice.

The new labelling system is called the AIM model. It involves marking each seafood dish as either Australian (A), imported (I) or of mixed origin (M). It is the simplest method of labelling.

Hospitality businesses should:

- identify seafood dishes on their menu
- check origin information with suppliers
- apply the correct AIM label
- display labels clearly on customer orders

- be prepared to answer questions from your customers on the origins of their seafood.

Start now to make sure your business is ready. Check out the video to see how The Dock have been navigating and preparing for the changes: [Clear, simple and transparent: How The Dock delivers seafood labelling with confidence.](#)



For practical guidance including FAQs, visit [business.gov.au/seafoodlabels](https://business.gov.au/seafoodlabels)

For ACT liquor and gaming venues, Access Canberra is the regulatory responsible for seafood country of origin labelling requirements under the [Australian Consumer Law](#).

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## Incident reporting obligations for liquor licensees - reminder

As a liquor licensee, maintaining a safe and compliant venue is a core responsibility. An important part of this is ensuring that incidents occurring on your premises are properly recorded and reported in a timely manner.

### Reporting timeframes

As per section 131(4) of the [Liquor Act 2010](#), all incidents must be reported to the Commissioner within **24 hours** of occurring. The intent of this timeframe is to help keep patrons safe as matters can be promptly assessed and followed up as appropriate.

### **What needs to be reported?**

Incidents that must be reported include, but are not limited to:

- **refusing entry** to a patron
- **fights or assaults** occurring on the premises
- **confiscation of fake ID cards**
- **providing medical assistance** to a patron
- **removing a person** from the premises.

These examples highlight common situations, but any event that could impact safety, or compliance, should be considered for reporting.

### **How to report an incident**

If an incident occurs, you are required to complete the [Liquor – Incident Reporting form](#). Ensuring that all relevant details are accurately captured will support effective oversight and help demonstrate your commitment to responsible venue management.

By adhering to these reporting obligations, licensees play a critical role in promoting liquor consumption in a safe and legal way.

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## **Annual reporting requirements for certain liquor licensees – reminders**

If you hold an off-licence, a first-year micro-producer off-licence or a wholesale off-licence, you have purchase/sales reporting obligations under Part 1.5 of the [Liquor Regulation 2010](#).

### **Off licensees**

Section 1.19 – requires you to provide the Commissioner, in writing, information about liquor purchased by the licensee during the financial year to be sold at the licensed premises. Reports must be provided not later than 2 months after the

end of each financial year and include details of the supplier and the gross price paid or payable for liquor.

### **First year micro-producer off licensees**

Section 1.19A – requires you to tell the commissioner, in writing, the gross price paid or payable for sales, during the reporting period, of liquor produced on its licensed premises. Reports must be provided at the end of the reporting period for the licence.

### **Wholesale off-licensees**

Section 1.20 – requires licensees who sell liquor by wholesale under an off licence must give the Commissioner and the Chief Health Officer information in writing about the volume of certain liquor types sold during the financial year. Reports must be provided not later than 1 month after the end of each financial year and metrics must be in litres. Reportable liquor types that are sold by wholesale (under an off-licence) include beers, wines, spirits and pre-mixed spirit based drinks.

### **How to report**

You can lodge your purchase/sales information with the Commissioner using the online [Liquor Purchase Information form](#) on the Access Canberra website.

If you have any enquiries, please email the Access Canberra Liquor team at [acliqur@act.gov.au](mailto:acliqur@act.gov.au)



## **FIFA World Cup 2026 special event declaration**

To support the community celebrating special events in Canberra, the Head of Access Canberra can make a Special Event Declaration.

A [special event](#) has been declared for the FIFA World Cup 2026 Closing Ceremony on Sunday 19 July 2026 in New York. This means eligible licensed venues have had their operating hours automatically extended for Monday 20 July 2026 until 2am on Tuesday 21 July 2026.

Eligible licensees include:

- general licences
- on licences
- club licenses
- special licenses

For all special events, licensees must continue to comply with their licence conditions and any conditions stated in the special event declaration.

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## Feedback

This newsletter is for you – feedback or ideas for future quarterly newsletters is welcome. Please send any thoughts to [gamblingandracing@act.gov.au](mailto:gamblingandracing@act.gov.au).

Other feedback about Access Canberra or the Gambling and Racing Commission as a regulator or service provider can be lodged using the [Access Canberra Feedback form](#).

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## Acknowledgement of Country



We acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

email us at: [gamblingandracing@act.gov.au](mailto:gamblingandracing@act.gov.au) to be [unsubscribed](#) from future communications