

2024-25 Community Contributions Program

The Community Contributions Scheme (the **Scheme**) is a framework that ensures a proportion of Net Gaming Machine Revenue (**NGMR**) generated by ACT Community Clubs is returned to the ACT community. The Scheme is established under Part 12 of the *Gaming Machine Act 2004* and further supported by Part 9 of the *Gaming Machine Regulation 2004*.

The current minimum contribution requirements for Community Clubs are:

- 0.4% of NGMR to the Gambling Harm Prevention and Mitigation Fund
- 0.4% of NGMR to the Chief Minister's Charitable Fund
- 8% of NGMR made as community purpose contributions.

Hotels are not required to contribute the eight percent of NGMR to community purposes.

What we did?

The Community Contributions Program 2024–25 (the **Program**) was conducted by the Gambling and Racing Commission to establish club licensees understanding and compliance with their reporting obligations under the Scheme. The Commission engaged with 19 club licensees.

A core objective of the Program was to establish a baseline for Industry, to inform more targeted regulatory activities in the future. The Program also provided an opportunity to assess the Commission's own performance in meeting its own legislative and regulatory obligations.

What we found?

All licensees were found to be non-compliant with various elements of the Scheme's reporting requirements indicating potential misunderstanding of administrative processes and reporting requirements. This included failing to provide an electronic copy of their annual report to the Commission and /or failing to publish the annual report on a public website.

The legislation requires that contributions be recorded as a percentage of NGMR for each category, however, in some instances, licensees reported monetary values instead of the required percentages.

It is important to note that licensees may report their community contributions alongside their individually set financial reporting periods. These reports need to cover any 12-month reporting period set by the licensee, with start and end dates that can fall at any time during a given year as such there are a range of reporting periods used by club licensees across the ACT.

The Commission also identified that its obligation to publish community contribution reporting information on its website had not been fully met. This has since been rectified, and internal process improvements have been implemented.

What was the end result?

In August 2025, in response to identified issues the Commission published a fact sheet on the Scheme to clarify reporting requirements and transparency expectations. This is available on the website: [Community Purpose Contributions - Fact Sheet](#).

The Commission also engaged directly with licensees and inspected a sample of annual reporting records to confirm the claimed contributions. Non-compliance was identified in a small number of licensees, largely for missing certain information on invoices or including GST in the contribution amount. The Commission

continues to work with licensees, noting they may be at different stages of their reporting year, to improve reporting against the requirements.

Next Steps

In 2026-27, the Commission will continue its Community Contribution compliance program activities, focusing on reported community contribution claim information. It will prioritise identifying and responding to instances of non-compliance. The aim is to improve the overall transparency of the Community Contribution scheme to provide confidence that the correct proportion of NGMR is returned to the ACT community.