



Industry Newsletter: Gambling and Liquor

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

The ACT Gambling and Racing Commission (the Commission) and the ACT Commissioner for Fair Trading are pleased to present the latest edition of our newsletter, where we share key regulatory updates, upcoming priorities and important reminders for the gambling and liquor industries. As regulators, our focus remains on promoting responsible practices, ensuring compliance and safeguarding community wellbeing.

The start of the new financial year has seen a lot of planning and preparation undertaken by Access Canberra and the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission. This includes the finalisation of Annual Reports, Strategic Plans and embedding our key priorities for the gambling and liquor industry.

Heading into the warmer months, there are many events on the social calendar. In this newsletter we have provided a list of events that have been declared as Special Events by the Commissioner for Fair Trading for the Spring.

We are also excited to provide you with information on how to participate in Gambling Harm Action Week 2026, kicking off with the Minister for Gaming Reform launch on Monday 19 October 2026.

Finally, this newsletter includes some important information from the Alcohol Beverages Advertising Code (ABAC) Scheme regarding their newly released industry compliance resources.

Josh Rynehart

Commissioner for Fair Trading

Giuseppe Mangeruca

CEO - ACT Gambling and Racing Commission

Spring Special Event Declarations

Spring is upon us, and the social events calendar is filling up! There are several key events on in the Capital in coming months that have been declared Special Events by the Head of Access Canberra.

A special event provides eligible licensees with automatically extended operating hours to continue serving drinks for consumption on the premises.

A [Special Event](#) has been declared for the following spring dates:

- 26 September – AFL Grand Final
- 1-4 October – Floriade NightFest
- 4 October – NRL and NRLW Grand Finals
- 14 October – NBL match – Sydney Kings v New Zealand Breakers
- 23 October – Rugby Union match – Wallaroos v Scotland
- 3 November – 2026 Melbourne Cup
- 7 November – La Fiesta

Eligible licensees include:

- general licences
- on licences
- club licences
- special licences.

To see if you are eligible, or for further information, please visit the [Access Canberra website](#).



Gambling Harm Action Week 2026 Forum: What role can you play?

Gambling Harm Action Week in 2026 will take place from **19 to 25 October** with the theme **We all play a role in preventing gambling harm**.

Join ACT Minister for Gaming Reform, Dr Marisa Paterson, and the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission for the launch of Gambling Harm Action Week 2026.

This free forum will bring together industry, government, community and research stakeholders to explore emerging challenges, local evidence and opportunities for collective action across the ACT.

As gambling products, technologies and environments continue to evolve, collaboration across sectors is essential to reducing harm and supporting better outcomes for individuals, families and communities.

What role can you play? The forum provides an opportunity to hear from experts, share insights and contribute to discussions about strengthening

gambling harm prevention in the ACT.

Topics will include:

- emerging gambling harm trends and challenges
- local evidence and research
- community perspectives and responses
- opportunities for collaboration
- priorities for future action.

When: Monday 19 October 2026, 9.00 am to 12.30 pm (registration from 8.30 am)

Where: Ann Harding Conference Centre, University of Canberra

Places are limited. [Click here to register.](#)

**WE ALL
PLAY A
ROLE IN
PREVENTING
GAMBLING
HARM.**

What role can you play?



HELP IS AVAILABLE
1800 858 858



Regulatory Focus Areas for 2026-27

The ACT Gambling and Racing Commission has finalised its Statement of Expectations for 2026/27, identifying a number of key programs that will guide its regulatory and engagement activities over the coming year.

The Commission's priority programs include:

- Casino
- Community Contributions Scheme
- Electronic Gaming Machines
- Incident Reporting.

While the detailed scope of these programs is still being developed, licensees can expect continued engagement from the Commission as work progresses across these focus areas.

Licensees are encouraged to maintain strong governance, compliance and record-keeping practices, and to ensure staff are familiar with their regulatory obligations.

The Commission will continue to work with industry through a combination of education, engagement and targeted regulatory activities to promote awareness and support compliance throughout 2026/27.

What this means for licensees: As the Commission's program of work develops, licensees should remain attentive to regulatory communications and ensure their existing policies, procedures and training arrangements remain fit for purpose and aligned with their legislative obligations.

New Alcohol Beverages Advertising Code Guides

The Alcohol Beverages Advertising Code (ABAC) Scheme has released a range of new compliance resources for alcohol marketers, including new guides on [social media age restrictions](#), [working with influencers](#) and a [compliance resource for the spirits industry](#).

A recent audit found that small brands had the lowest compliance rates on activating social media age restriction settings for alcohol brand accounts — often due to misconceptions that doing so costs money, requires expert help, or hurts engagement. None of these are accurate: activation is quick, free and doesn't hurt adult engagement. Activating these settings is a simple way to help exclude under 18s from alcohol marketing, and ABAC's new step-by-step guide shows

brands exactly how.

[For the full suite of ABAC resources, see here.](#)

Seafood labelling changes - now in effect

The Competition and Consumer (Australian Consumer Law-Country of Origin Information for Fish for Immediate Consumption) Information Standard 2025 came into effect on 1 July 2026.

All hospitality businesses serving dishes containing seafood must include country-of-origin information on menus. In July 2026, Access Canberra completed spot checks of hospitality venues in the ACT finding a non-compliance rate of 64%. Inspections will continue throughout 2026-27.

There are 3 ways to label the origin of your seafood ingredients:

- single letter AIM labels (AIM)
- detailed AIM labels (Australian, Imported, Mixed)
- a single statement for your whole business.

Single statements

- If your business uses only Australian seafood or only imported seafood, you can provide a single origin statement instead of labelling individual menu items.
- Single statements cannot be used if your business uses both Australian and imported seafood.
- Examples of single statements include:
 - We only serve Australian seafood
 - All fish is imported

Other information

- The labelling requirement applies to physical menus, online menus, menu boards, food ordering apps and QR code menus.
- The labels you use must be clear, accurate and truthful.
- Labels must also be written in English but can also be translated into other languages.

- For mixed dishes, you can choose to label each individual seafood ingredient with an A or I instead.
- Businesses must keep records proving the origin of your seafood for 3 months from the date you last offered it to customers

Under the ACL, it is unlawful for a business to:

- supply goods that do not comply with a relevant information standard
- behave in a way that's misleading or deceptive, or likely to mislead or deceive
- make a false or misleading representation, including about the origin of goods.

Visit [Seafood labelling laws have changed for hospitality businesses | business.gov.au](https://business.gov.au) for more guidance.

// APPETIZERS

- Spring rolls (VG)
- Satay chicken skewers (GF)
- Crispy salt + pepper calamari (I)
- Kingfish sashimi (A, GF)

// MAIN COURSES

- Hoisin and ginger pork ribs
- Spicy miso roast pumpkin (V, GF)
- Scallop + king prawn stir-fry (M)
- Grilled salmon + mixed greens (A)

// SIDES

- Stir-fried greens with XO sauce
- Pickles - ginger, lime (GF, VG)
- Steamed rice (GF, VG, V)
- Edamame (GF, VG, V)

DIETARY
GF=Gluten free VG=Vegan V=Vegetarian

SEAFOOD ORIGIN
A=Australian I=Imported M=Mixed

AIM labelling should appear after the seafood dish. Listed using an A for Australian, I for Imported, and M for Mixed origin.
A more detailed explanation of the seafood origin can be used such as 'Australian' or 'Contains imported seafood' or 'Contains fish of mixed origin'.

No labelling is needed where a dish contains *only* non-solid forms of fish such as a stock, sauce or a paste.

Legends must be available on menus and/or display boards to help consumers understand any labelling. Labelling must be provided within the physical location of the business, and online if food can be ordered by a QR code or similar system.

Feedback

This newsletter is for you – feedback or ideas for future quarterly newsletters is welcome. Please send any thoughts to 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](#).

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.

You have received this email from the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission and the Commissioner for Fair Trading, as our records indicate you hold a current gaming machine and/or liquor licence. If you do not hold a current licence, or believe you have received this email in error, please

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

