

Media release



FROM THE MINISTER FOR GAMING

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VICTORIA URGES STATES AND TERRITORIES TO ADOPT NATIONAL GAMING STANDARDS

Gaming Minister Tony Robinson is urging Australian States and Territories to follow Victoria's lead and commit to removing automatic teller machines from gaming venues and require all gaming machines to contain mechanisms giving players the option to pre-commit the amount of time and money they spend.

Earlier this year, the Brumby Government made policy announcements that put Victoria at the forefront of the fight against the harm associated with problem gambling.

Mr Robinson said that from 2012 automatic teller machines (ATMs) will be prohibited in all gaming venues and within 50 metres of an entrance to the Melbourne casino gaming floor.

He said this initiative built on amendments already made to Victoria's gambling legislation that will require, by 2010, the removal of any ATM that does not limit the amount a customer can withdraw to \$400 a day.

"The Brumby Government also made a landmark commitment in relation to pre-commitment," Mr Robinson said.

"In an Australian first, Premier John Brumby announced in March that from 2010 all new gaming machines will be required to have a mechanism that allows a person to pre-set time and loss limits prior to commencing play."

"The Brumby Government is taking action to help Victorians experiencing problems with gambling. In 2006, we announced our five year, \$132 million *Taking Action on Problem Gambling* strategy, the most comprehensive problem gambling program in Australia," Mr Robinson said.

Mr Robinson called for these Victorian initiatives to be implemented nationally as Victoria's Responsible Gambling Ministerial Advisory Council (RGMAC) met in Melbourne today.

The Responsible Gambling Ministerial Advisory Council (RGMAC) provides stakeholder input into Victoria's gambling research agenda.

The council, chaired by Professor Bruce Singh, includes representatives from industry,

community and problem gambling services. It provides advice to the Minister for Gaming on responsible gambling issues.

Mr Robinson said the Council will also consider his referral for advice regarding the criteria for exemptions from future requirements to remove all ATMs from gaming venues.

Mr Robinson said the council played an important part in providing expert advice on gambling issues such as research and ATMs.

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