



THE REGULATORY IMPACT OF RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

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10th GRAF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

12 - 14 MAY 2014

**Protea Hotel The Ranch Resort - Polokwane
South Africa**

THE ROLE OF THE REGULATOR

Basically the Gaming Regulatory bodies have two major functions:

- Maximising the benefits that come along with legalised gambling activities, e.g. tourism development, funding for the national purse.
- Minimising the negative effects associated with gambling activities e.g. loss of property, family and child neglect, theft and other serious crimes.

RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING

- Responsible gambling means staying in control of how much time and money we spend gambling.
- This is a concept that gambling operators, software suppliers and other service providers need to uphold to ensure their offerings uphold the highest standards to ensure a fair and safe gaming experience that protects players from the adverse consequences of gambling.
- Responsible gambling encompasses; research counselling, rehabilitation etc.
- It also means undertaking social responsibility by operators.

- Public education is the act of bringing awareness to the general public about problem gambling.
- Public education activities would include among other
 - awareness campaigns
 - training of staff on problem gambling
 - schools programs
 - research
 - distribution of information material etc.
- The idea of public education is to have informed players who gambles for fun and are able to set limits to time and financial resources subjected to gambling.

REGULATORY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Responsible gambling and Public education are therefore key responsibilities of any regulator.
- If a regulator has to significantly minimise the social harm that comes along with problem gambling, then they must engage in responsible gambling programs and massive public education.

- Clean image of the gambling industry –as you might all be aware that not every citizen looks at gaming as a good thing.
- Compensatory effect – players who lose out may not feel that bad when they see what the industry is doing in terms of social responsibility and rehabilitation.
- Guide policy formulation – research on gambling issues provides vital clues to input into legislation.
- Cost of running the program is increasing. Number of information materials is increasing with the increase in number of venues and punters. Training costs for operators are similarly increasing.

CHALLENGES

- There are some operators who are not committed to responsible gambling programs
- Many jurisdictions do not have the necessary legislation to enforce responsible gambling
- Some Regulators emphasise on making money and put less effort on taking care of players in early stages of regulation
- Offshore operators may not cooperate in implementing responsible gambling programs

- Implementation of responsible gambling programs is the responsibility of all regulatory bodies.
- If responsible gambling is absent in a particular jurisdiction it means they are not fully carrying out their mandate.
- Jurisdictions should consider including issues of responsible gambling in their legislation to make implementation easier.

THANK YOU