

Auckland Regional Public Health Service

Rātonga Hauora ā Iwi o Tamaki Makaurau



Working with the people of Auckland, Counties Manukau and Waitemata

Auckland Regional Public Health Service

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Environmental Administrator
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Submission on the Gambling Venue Policy Review

Thank you for the opportunity for the Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) to provide feedback on the Gambling Venue Policy. ARPHS would *not* like to be heard at a submission hearing.

ARPHS recommends **Option Four- No new venue consents**. ARPHS seeks to improve the health and wellbeing of Maori, Pacific and other disadvantaged populations to reduce inequalities in health status. Thus, ARPHS would like to support and endorse the following recommendations made by Hapai Te Hauora Tapui, Ltd.:

1. Request that the North Shore City Council carry out an extensive consultation process with tangata whenua and Māori community residents in the North Shore which takes into account the views of a wide cross-section of the community and is carried out by a Māori iwi mandated organisation or contractors each 3 year review cycle.
2. Request that the North Shore City Council adopt a sinking lid policy that includes **ALL** non casino gaming machines throughout North Shore City Council district and in particular those within a low decile or highly deprived population group especially those areas with a high occupancy rate by Māori.
3. Request that the North Shore City Council develop formal process of engagement with Mana Whenua, Maori and other communities to ensure a collective, proactive approach to policy development.

According to national surveys¹, Maori, Pacific and Asian populations are at risk to being problem gamblers and experience high levels of gambling-related harm (substance misuse, economic destruction, social exclusion). Gambling-related harm unevenly impacts Maori and Pacific populations, thus public policy needs to be developed to create supportive environments to protect and promote the health and wellbeing of communities. Evidence suggests that the majority of problem gamblers seeking treatment or assistance have problems with non-casino gaming machines. Thus, reducing the number of gambling venues (Option Four) is the best option to reduce gambling-related harm in North Shore City.

¹ Ministry of Health. 2004. *Preventing and minimising gambling harm: Strategic plan 2004-2010*. Wellington: Ministry of Health.

Please note that this document represents the views of the Auckland Regional Public Health Service and does not necessarily reflect the views of the three District Health Boards (Counties-Manukau, Auckland, Waitemata). Please refer to Appendix 1 for more information on ARPHS.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Booth', is centered on the page.

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APPENDIX 1 - AUCKLAND REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) provides public health services for the three district health boards (DHBs) in the Auckland region (Auckland, Counties Manukau and Waitemata District Health Boards), with the primary governance mechanism for the Service resting with Auckland District Health Board.

ARPHS has a statutory obligation under the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 to improve, promote and protect the health of people and communities in the Auckland region. The Medical Officer of Health has an enforcement and regulatory role under the Health Act 1956 and other legislative designations to protect the health of the community.

ARPHS' primary concern is to improve population health rather than deliver personal health services. It actively seeks to influence any initiatives or proposals that may affect population health in the Auckland region to maximise their positive impact and minimise possible negative effects on population health.

The Auckland region faces a number of public health challenges through changing demographics, increasingly diverse communities, increasing incidence of lifestyle-related health conditions such as obesity and type 2 diabetes, outstanding infrastructure needs, the balancing of transport needs, and the reconciliation of urban design and urban intensification issues.

Policy to effect health gain is often marginalised to medical care. Health, however, is influenced by a broad range of policy decisions and is therefore a multi-sector responsibility and not solely the responsibility of the health sector. Statutes such as the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act, Local Government Act, Resource Management Act and Building Act (amongst many others) all have elements designed to deliver outcomes promoting, protecting and maintaining the health of the community. Planning and policy decisions by central government, local government, non-government agencies and the commercial sector can have a large impact on health outcomes. ARPHS, therefore, has a role to play in policy advocacy. Population health and wellbeing can be improved if policy decision makers are considering long term outcomes. ARPHS aims to influence public policy to create a supportive environment for the communities of Auckland.