



WHITEHORSE
CITY COUNCIL

Help shape our gambling policy

Consultation report

Thank you to everyone who shared their feedback and suggestions for Council's gambling policy.

A comprehensive engagement process was undertaken to assess community attitudes towards gambling, its prevalence, and to gauge community support for potential policy options.

Engagement methods included:

- An online survey with hard copies available at key locations.
- A workshop with gambling support services.
- Interviews with gaming venues.
- A presentation with Q&A at the sporting club seasonal handover meeting.
- Five pop-ups at various locations across the municipality, including the Positive Ageing Expo.

The engagement findings confirmed that gambling is widespread in the Whitehorse community and is having a negative impact for around 1 in 5 who gamble.

Feedback demonstrated support for broadening the scope of the current gambling policy beyond electronic gaming machines to consider other forms of gambling. There was also support for new measures aligned with a public health approach. These measures include Council not hosting events in gaming venues, not funding community groups and organisations that own or operate gaming machines, prohibiting gambling on Council land or its buildings, and restricting advertisements for gambling activities on Council land or its buildings.

This has provided valuable information to help us work towards a Draft Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy. We will now continue to work through the information and suggestions received to inform the draft policy.

Engagement snapshot

- 153 submissions received (93 survey responses and 60 via pop-ups)
- 28 downloads of the current 2011 Responsible Gambling Policy.
- 30 visits to the FAQs page.
- Around 41 per cent of respondents to the survey had gambled in the past six months.
- Approximately 40 per cent had someone in their life that had engaged in gambling activity in the last six months.
- The most prioritised policy position for inclusion in the revised draft policy was 'Council not promoting or providing funding to the gambling industry' at 63 per cent.

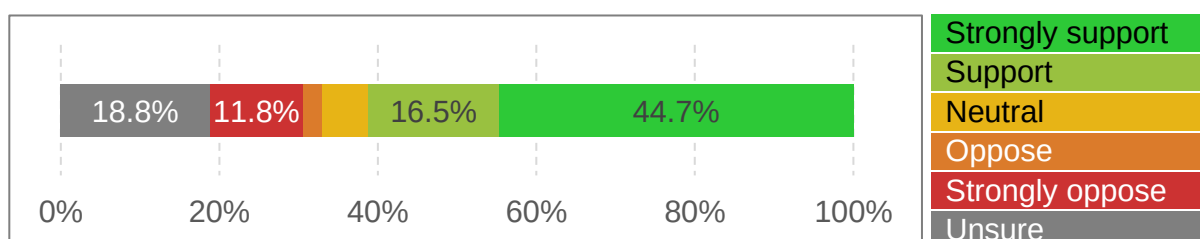
Promotion of engagement:

- An article in the Whitehorse News.
- Signage at community centres and libraries.
- Social media advertising reaching over 4,788 viewers, with 15,417 impressions (number of times viewed).
- Publication in Council's Your Say Whitehorse e-newsletter, Community Groups e-newsletter, AllSports e-newsletter and Positive Ageing e-newsletter (as well as the Positive Ageing hardcopy news).
- Email to key service providers and sporting associations operating in Whitehorse.
- Email and phone call to gaming venues in Whitehorse.
- Presentation with Q&A session to approximately 25 sporting club representatives.
- Promotion via the Local Government Working Group on Gambling network and the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation e-newsletter.

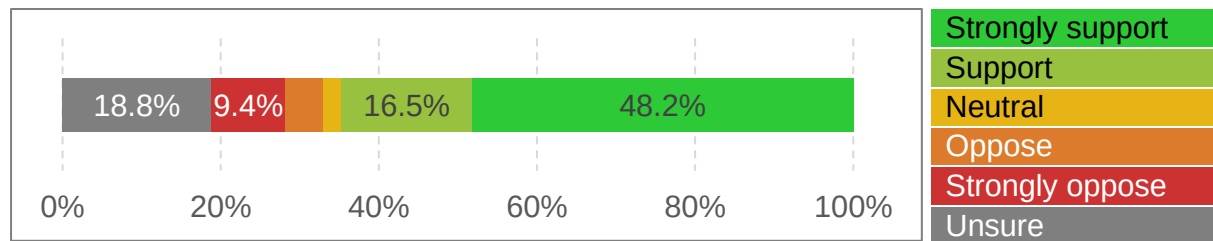
Your feedback

Below is a summary of the key themes through the first phase of engagement on Council's gambling policy.

61 per cent of respondents 'support' or 'strongly support' including measures to address online gambling.

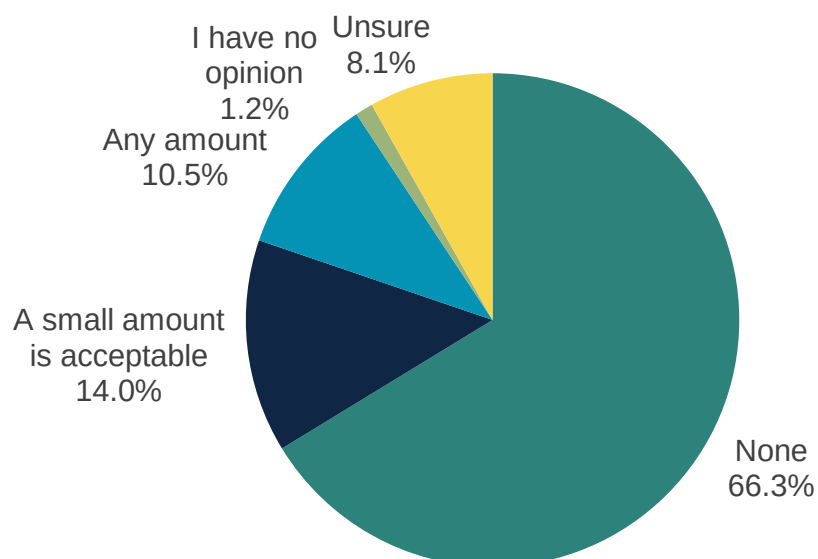


65 per cent of respondents 'support' or 'strongly support' including specific measures targeted at sports gambling.

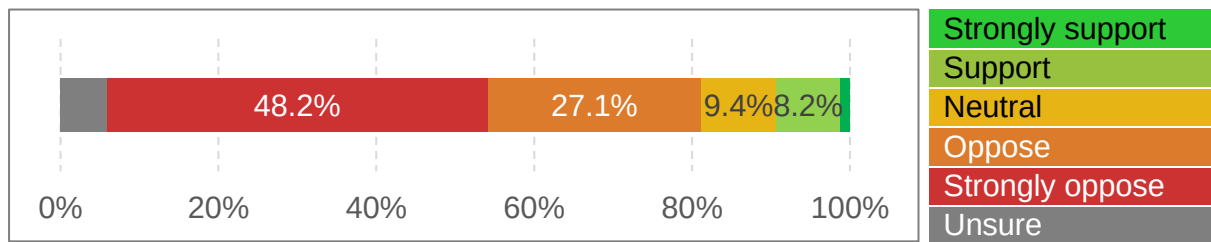


Approximately two thirds (66.3 per cent) of respondents thought that no amount of Council-hosted programs or events was acceptable in venues where there are pokies.

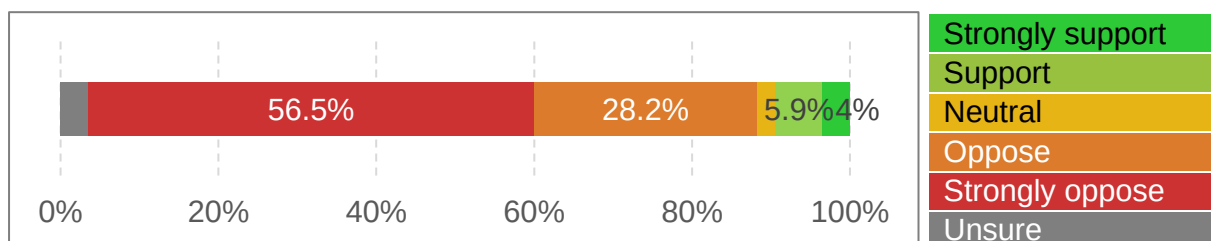
What is an acceptable amount of Council-hosted programs or events to take place in venues where there are pokies?



Three quarters of respondents (75 per cent) were either 'strongly opposed' or 'opposed' to Council funding and supporting groups, events or activities that occur in venues that have pokies.

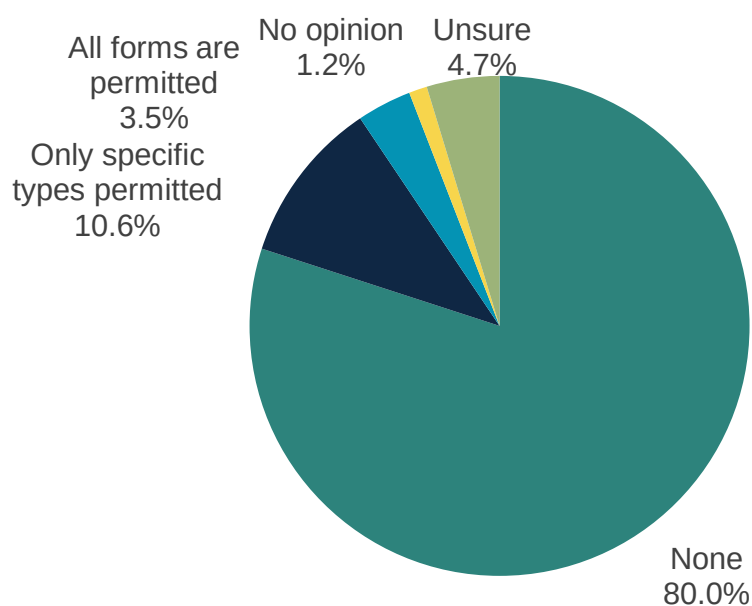


85 per cent of respondents 'strongly opposed' or 'opposed' Council funding and supporting groups, events, or activities that promote or receive sponsorship from the gambling industry.



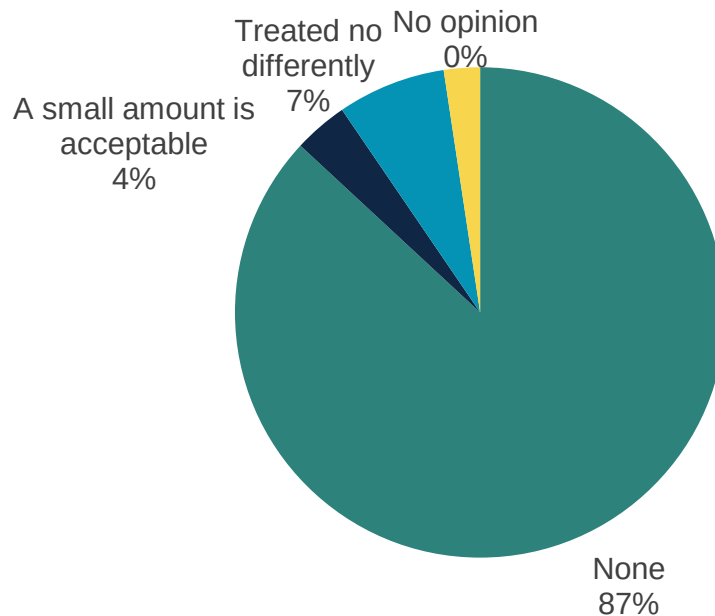
94 per cent of respondents thought that the amount of pokies permitted on Council land should remain at zero, while 80 per cent thought that no gambling activity should be permitted on Council land.

What is your opinion on the amount of gambling activity that tenants should be permitted to engage in on Council land?



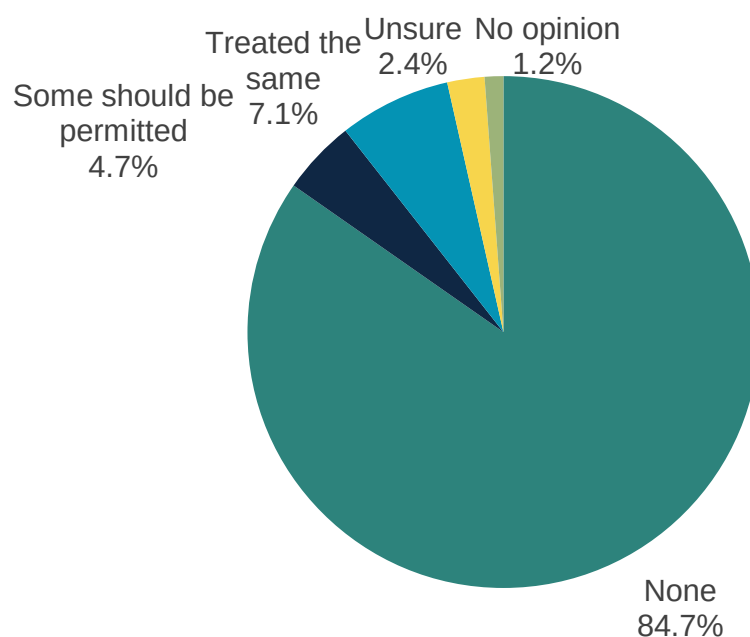
87 per cent of respondents indicated that no gambling advertising or promotion would be considered acceptable on Council buildings and facilities.

In your opinion, what amount of gambling advertising and promotion is acceptable in Council buildings and facilities?



85 per cent of respondents thought that no amount of gambling products and services advertising or promotion is acceptable by Council tenants via print materials, digital marketing, uniforms or merchandise on Council-owned sports grounds and in clubrooms.

What is your opinion on Council tenants advertising or promoting gambling products and services via print materials, digital marketing, uniforms or merchandise on Council-owned sports grounds and in clubrooms?



Next steps

Officers will seek Council endorsement at the 8 July Council meeting to place the Draft Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy on exhibition and invite further community feedback before seeking final adoption from Council.

Subscribe for updates

To keep updated on the project, subscribe for updates at <https://yoursay.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/gambling>

Contact us

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