



Victoria's regulated gambling environment: a short introduction

Different forms of gambling are legalised or prohibited by Victorian and Commonwealth legislation.

The Victorian *Gambling Regulation Act 2003* legalises gambling on poker machines, keno, lotteries and bingo while the *Casino Control Act 1991* legalises gambling on casino games at the Crown Casino.

The Commonwealth *Interactive Gambling Act 2001* legalises online sports betting and online wagering in Australia from licensed providers, however, it prohibits the provision of other forms of online gambling like pokie machines and casino games. Victoria's *Gambling Regulation Act* also applies to some aspects of online bookmaking (wagering and sports betting) offered in Victoria.

The following forms of gambling are legal in Victoria:

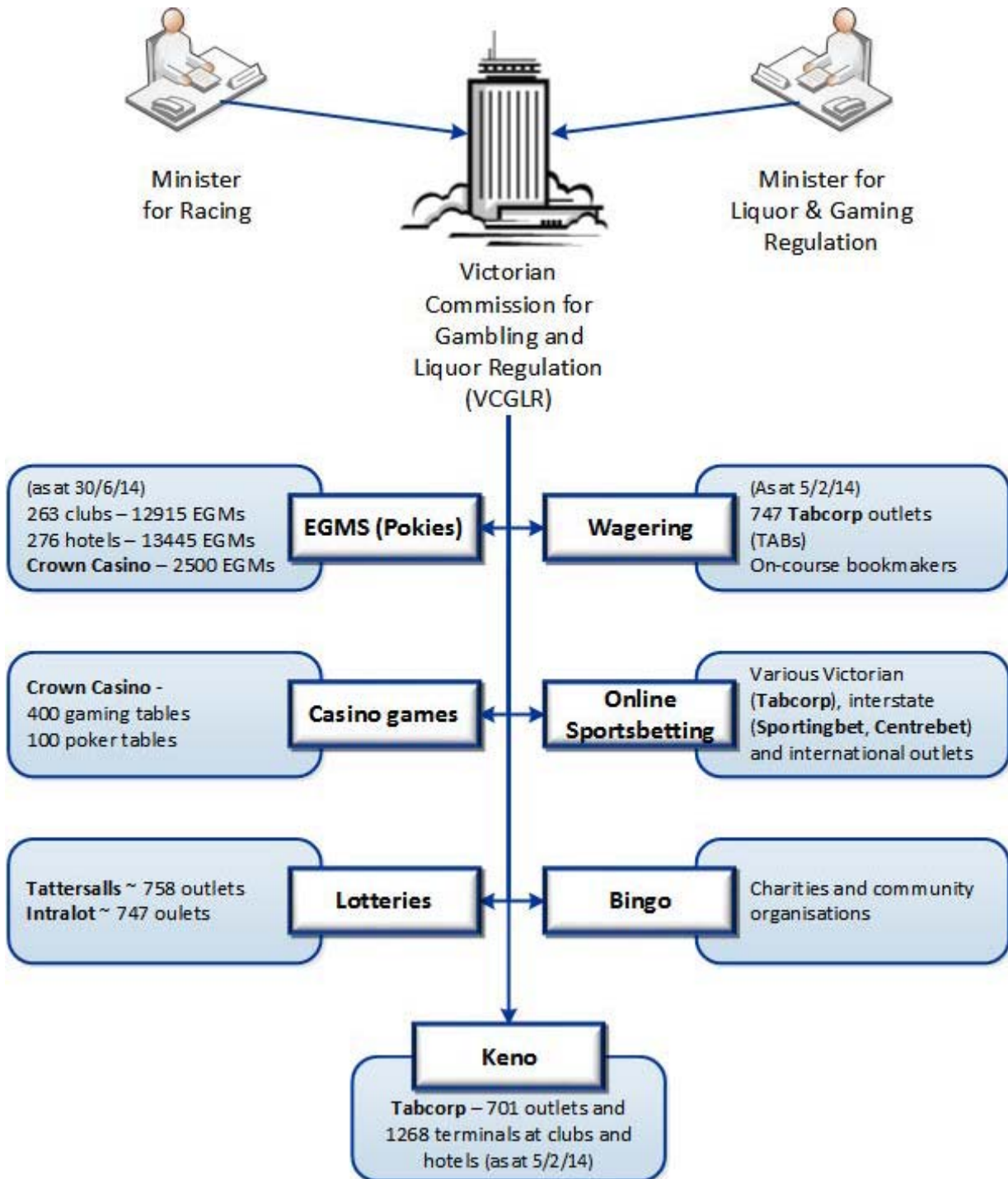
- pokie machines
- casino games
- wagering
- sports betting
- keno
- lotteries and
- bingo.

All of these forms of gambling are regulated in Victoria.

In Victoria, the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR) is authorised to regulate gambling in clubs, hotels and the Crown casino as well as sports betting and wagering. Gambling businesses or activities need the commission's permission to operate in Victoria.

The offices of the Minister for Liquor and Gaming Regulation and the Minister for Racing are responsible for developing and implementing policies on gambling as well as amending the legislative framework in Victoria as required.

The following diagram provides an outline of the gambling environment in Victoria.



Poker machines

Electronic Gaming Machines (EGMS), also known as pokies, are controlled by a computer program that generates thousands of random combinations every second. To place a bet on a pokie machine you must insert cash or credit into the machine and press the button. The machine will randomly determine the position of symbols on the game and generate one outcome. If the machine determines a win, credits are paid. If not, the machine continues to generate outcomes until the button is pressed again.

At 30 June 2014 there were 28,860 pokie machines in Victoria located at clubs, hotels and the single licensed casino provider – Crown Casino. No venue apart from Crown casino is permitted to have more than 105 pokie machines.

Pokies are owned and operated by the local venue. Venue operators apply to the VCGLR for a license to operate pokie machines and to their local council for a planning permit.

Pokie machines are most associated with gambling problems with 91 per cent of problem gamblers surveyed in 2009 reporting gambling on pokie machines in the previous 12 months (Department of Justice, 2009). This high rate of participation among problem gamblers is reflected in the regulatory attention pokie machines receive in Victoria.

Casino games

Casino games including poker, roulette, baccarat, blackjack and craps are offered by the single licensee in Victoria – Crown Casino.

Crown Casino operates 400 gaming tables and 100 poker tables as well as 2,500 pokie machines. The provision of casino games and pokie machines at Crown Casino are regulated by the VCGLR.

Crown Casino is regulated under separate legislation than clubs and hotels in Victoria – the *Casino Control Act 1991*. Although Crown Casino is required to follow the same standards and requirements as other gaming venues, there are some exceptions. For example, smoking is permitted in high roller areas, the casino operates 24 hours a day, table games are provided and pokie machines offer higher bet limits.

Wagering

Wagering is the placing of a bet on racing, sports and other approved events.

In Victoria, wagering on horse and greyhound races is offered on-course, by bookmakers at a racetrack, and off-course using electronic betting terminals located at clubs and hotels as well as by Tabcorp Wagering (Vic) Pty Ltd (Tabcorp). Tabcorp is licensed until 2024 to operate the only off-course wagering retail network in Victoria via its TAB outlets. At 5 February 2014 there were 747 TAB outlets in Victoria.

Online Sports betting

A wager on approved sporting events can be made online or using interactive television.

In Victoria, sports betting providers (ie. Sporting bet and Centrebet) may not offer bets on Victorian sporting events without a written agreement from the relevant sports controlling body (e.g. Cricket Australia) or a determination by the VCGLR. In Victoria, sports betting is legal on any event where approval has been given by the VCGLR.

Sports betting is offered by the wagering provider (Tabcorp) or other sports betting companies registered in an Australian jurisdiction. The VCGLR must approve sports for both fixed odds and totalisator betting.

Keno

Keno is a rapid-draw game in which a set of numbers is drawn through a random number generator from a pool of numbers. The numbers are then posted electronically in venues.

In Victoria, Keno is only offered by Tabcorp Investments No. 5 Pty Ltd (Tabcorp). Tabcorp is authorised to provide Keno in eligible hotels, clubs and wagering outlets across Victoria under a 10 year license (ending in 2022).

Keno may be provided by cashiers or terminals. Unlike pokie machines, Keno is not restricted to the gaming areas in eligible clubs and hotels. At 5 February 2014, there were 701 Keno outlets and approximately 1268 Keno terminals in Victoria.

The provision of Keno in Victoria is regulated by the VCGLR.

Lottery

A lottery is a rapid draw game where a set of numbers is drawn through a random number generator. There are two public lottery licences in Victoria held by Tattersall's Sweeps Pty Ltd (Tattersall's) and Intralot Australia Pty Ltd (Intralot).

Tattersall's is authorised to offer Tattslotto, Oz Lotto, Powerball, Super 66, The Pools, Monday and Wednesday Lotto and Draw Lotteries while Intralot is authorised to offer Keno 10/20/70 (Lucky Keno), Pick 5 Heads or Tails, Cross & Match (Lucky Lines), TV Bingo (Lucky Bingo Star), Pick 3, Instant Lottery Games (Lucky Tix) and Instant Lottery Games drawn by random number generator.

The above lotteries are only available from Tatts or Intralot outlets. Outlets may be located in clubs and pubs as well as local news agents and petrol stations. In Victoria, there are approximately 758 Tatts outlets and 747 Intralot outlets.

Bingo

Bingo is a form of minor gaming. Players receive a ticket(s) with randomly numbered squares, then players mark off the numbers as they are randomly drawn and announced. To win, a player must be the first to mark off all numbers on their ticket and call 'line', 'pattern', or 'bingo.'

Bingo may only be conducted for fundraising purposes by organisations declared (registered) by the VCGLR as a community or charitable organisation. A licensed bingo centre operator on behalf of a declared community or charitable organisation can also run bingo sessions. Licenses are provided by the VCGLR, which regulates the functioning of bingo in Victoria.

More information

Department of Justice (2009). [A study of Gambling in Victoria: problem gambling from a public health perspective](#), State of Victoria.

Gambling Information Resource Office (GIRO), [Victoria's gambling environment](#)

Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR), [Existing licensees](#)

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