

National Council of Women of New South Wales Inc.

Patron: Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC, KC
Governor of New South Wales
Est. 1896

President: Yvette Kinkade
Hon. Secretary: Karen Binstead
Hon. Treasurer: Margaret Wood

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Liquor and Gaming NSW (L&GNSW)
gaming.policy@liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au

ClubGRANTS Review consultation

The National Council of Women of New South Wales (NCWNSW) is a non-government umbrella organisation with broadly humanitarian and educational objectives. NCW NSW has an extensive membership of Affiliate organisations (all with significant membership numbers) and women who join as an Individual member. NCW NSW works to improve conditions for women and their families. We are affiliated to the National Council of Women of Australia (NCWA), a federated entity and through it to the International Council of Women (ICW-CIF) which has representation at many United Nations consultative bodies.

The ClubGrants scheme aims to redistribute profits from large clubs to community groups. However, concerns regarding transparency, accountability, and ethical practices have been raised within the community and NCW NSW advocates for the importance of ensuring that ClubGrants effectively address the needs of women and families impacted by financial hardship, and that clubs prioritise gender equity in their grant programs and decision-making processes.

NCWNSW Recommendations:

- Clubs to demonstrate that their grants effectively target women and families impacted by financial hardship within their communities. Currently there is a disconnect between the allocation of funds and the actual needs of vulnerable demographics.
- Women represent a significant portion of NSW communities and club memberships, yet there is a lack of equal representation of women and men on decision making committees responsible for community grants. This imbalance may lead to overlooking the specific needs and priorities of women in the grant distribution. Local committees need to comprise members from the Office, the Community Benefit Scheme Trustees, the local council, the local health district, and representatives from the community sector.
- Clubs may prioritise male-oriented activities in their grant programs, neglecting the unique challenges faced by women and families. We recommend for clubs to reassess their support and strive for improved gender equity in the grant allocation process.

See below Appendix 1.1 (Appendix B: Club GRANTS categories - Category 2)
<https://www.liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au/community-and-stakeholders/have-your-say/community-consultations/current-consultations/clubgrants-review>

- Revise the system to dedicate a minimum of 2% of poker machine tax revenue to establish a centrally managed, locally governed program, aimed at replacing the current category 1 and 2 grants for balanced community gender equitable grants.

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- All grant applications must incorporate strategies to mitigate gambling harm into their program design, alongside meeting the set priorities.
- A portion of Community Benefit Scheme (CBS) funds will be reserved to support projects spanning multiple Local Government Areas (LGAs), determined according to criteria addressing social disadvantage and gambling harm. This allocation will be overseen by the Office of Gambling Harm Minimization (OGHM).

We thank you for the opportunity to submit our observations and recommendations. We would be happy to provide further representations or assist in guiding any resolution towards an improved gender equitable system.

Yours sincerely

Yvette Kinkade
 President, National Council of Women of New South Wales Inc.
 Ph: 0438 642 622
president@ncwnsw.org.au

Appendix

1.1

OFFICIAL

Appendix B: ClubGRANTS categories

Category	Purpose	Administration	Tax rebate	Total funding to community
1	Build community services and social networks, community development, business health services and employment assistance activities.	Administered by clubs, with grants awarded for individual clubs directly to the recipient club. Specific requirements are outlined in the ClubGRANTS Guidelines.	Approximately \$20.8 million in 2023/24 Approximately \$25.5 million in 2024/25	Approximately \$26 million in 2023/24 Approximately \$33.5 million in 2024/25
2	Build other community development and support services not listed in Category 1, including expenditure on a club's core activities, such as sport, referral, education, financial management and staff costs and building growth opportunities.	Administered by Clubs, with grants awarded for individual Clubs to their core activities directly to recipient Clubs through the ClubGRANTS Guidelines.	Approximately \$42 million in 2023/24 Approximately \$28 million in 2024/25	Approximately \$81 million in 2023/24 Approximately \$70 million in 2024/25
3	Infrastructure grants for arts and culture, community centres, disaster readiness and sport and recreation.	Administered by the Office of Gambling Harm Minimization and funded through a Special Purpose Account called the ClubGRANTS Fund established by section 17A of the ACE.	0.4% of profits over \$5 million of each club from 2024/25 onwards Special Purpose Account called the ClubGRANTS Fund	\$2.5 million allocated for 2023/24 88 grants totaling \$12.2 million in 2023/24 Approximately \$12.5 million in 2024/25