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Sent by electronic mail: gamblingreview@dia.govt.nz

To: Safer Communities Team, Policy Group, Department of Internal Affairs

From: Birthright New Zealand

SUBMISSION: In response to Discussion Document: Review of Class 4 Gambling, DIA June 2016

About Birthright NZ

Birthright NZ is a registered charity. Birthright has been operating in New Zealand as a national organisation for over 50 years. We work to strengthen and enrich the lives of children and families. We specialise in working with families led by one person. Our vision is for nurtured, resilient, inspired children and families.

Birthright NZ is a charitable trust with 11 affiliate organisations throughout NZ who deliver a variety of social services to children and their families. These organisations work with families with a wide variety of needs. They assess needs, provide social work services and also work closely with other community service providers to ensure children and families who need support can access appropriate services.

Introduction

This submission is written after consideration of the submission made by the Fundraising Institute of New Zealand (FINZ). The FINZ submission raises many of the issues which impact on Birthright New Zealand and rather than repeat them, we have noted where we agree with the FINZ submission and where relevant provided examples or further information. Birthright NZ recognises that gambling is a reality in New Zealand and that funds from gambling in general and Class 3 and 4 benefit both our national Trust and affiliate organisations. The FINZ submission has been attached to provide ease of reference.

Our support of FINZ submission

We support the points made by FINZ in sections 1, 2 and 3 and 4 of their submission.

We also agree with their response outlined in section 5 of their submission regarding accountability reporting timeframes. The accountability process seems to have been designed as a “one size fits all” approach that does not take into account the type of project that has been funded. We support more flexibility with the option of a longer reporting time-frame where this has been requested at the time of making the application and it is considered warranted. Although our experience has been that funders have provided this flexibility when we needed it, we would prefer this to be considered a normal part of the process rather than a discretionary “by exception” approach.

In relation to point 6 made by FINZ in their submission, we support the issues raised. In particular we note the impact of decreased funding on our affiliate organisations that even if they are contracted by government experience a funding gap between the state contract revenue and the actual cost of delivering the service.

As reflected in point 7 of the FINZ submission, our experience of the grants process is that this it is well run and is clear, efficient, transparent and responsive. In terms of improvements, we have one particular comment with regard to national funding requests. We have had the experience of applying to a fund which advertises that a proportion of the funds are available for national projects only to be advised once the application was lodged that the funds for national projects had been exhausted and therefore our application was unsuccessful. As we had engaged with the funder with questions about the application prior to lodging it, we would have preferred to have been advised of this sooner rather than later to avoid unnecessary work. Our recommendation is that all funders provide up to date information on their websites regarding whether they are in a position to accept applications for national projects.

We support the points made by FINZ in sections 10 and 11 of their submission.

We have not commented on point 12 of the FINZ submission as we think more evidence is required.

We strongly support the comments made by FINZ in section 14 of their submission regarding the worth that is attached to funding “things” or “projects” to the detriment of funding a strong organisation base. We note that this is of particular concern for national organisations that are one step removed from service delivery and yet have a focus on building capacity and capability for the service delivery organisations they support.



Gabrielle O'Brien
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