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Mr Rob Fairs MP
Liberal Member for Bass
Via: haprocedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

9 JUL 2026

Dear Mr Fairs ,

Thank you for your question in Parliament on 17 June 2026 regarding changes to exclusion options from gaming venues, specifically how the Government's proposed immediate exclusion model will operate in practice.

Under the current Tasmanian Gambling Exclusion Scheme (TGES), a person seeking self-exclusion must complete the process through a gambling counsellor and nominate the specific venues from which they wish to be excluded. This can create delays and additional barriers for some people who are reluctant to engage with counselling services due to shame, embarrassment or other reasons.

Reforms to the TGES will fundamentally change the self-exclusion process by moving to a simplified, self-facilitated model that allows a person to immediately place themselves on the exclusion register through an online application. This reflects the Government's intention that a person who decides to exclude themselves from gambling can take immediate action, rather than waiting to access a counsellor before an exclusion can take effect.

In practice, the Government's intention is that a person wishing to exclude themselves will be able to access the exclusion system online, complete the application, and have their exclusion recorded in the TGES database. Once recorded, the exclusion will be visible to relevant venues and will take effect immediately.

To support these reforms, the Government will replace the current TGES database. A modern database will enable real-time updating of exclusion information and integration with facial recognition technology (FRT) in gaming venues.

FRT will provide a secure linkage between a person's exclusion record and a stored image linked to venue systems. If an excluded person enters a gaming area, venue staff will be discreetly alerted, who will then verify the match and take the appropriate action. Importantly, FRT is proposed as a tool to support enforcement of exclusions, not as a standalone harm minimisation measure. Human intervention will remain necessary to confirm identity and assist an excluded person.

These reforms are designed to remove barriers to self-exclusion, increase accessibility, and ensure that individuals can obtain protection from gambling harm at the time they seek it.

Detailed operational, technical and legislative arrangements are currently being developed and will form part of the Government's broader gambling harm minimisation package.

A Ministerial Direction to the Tasmanian Liquor and Gaming Commission was gazetted on 24 June 2026 to commence implementation of the Government's policy direction on enhancements to the TGES and the introduction of FRT as part of a comprehensive suite of harm minimisation measures for electronic gaming machines in hotels and clubs.

Thank you for raising this important matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Abetz', with a long, sweeping flourish extending from the end.

Hon Eric Abetz MP
Treasurer