Community Support Fund

Fact sheet

The Community Support Fund (CSF) was established in 1991 to distribute part of the Victorian Government’s gaming revenue to projects that benefit communities. The CSF is a trust fund governed by the *Gambling Regulation Act* *2003* and receives a portion of revenue from electronic gaming machines – it does not receive revenue from gaming machines located in clubs or in the casino.



Gaming revenue to government comes in a number of forms through various fees, levies and taxes on gaming.

In 2015-16, the CSF received $98.3 million in revenue from gaming machines in hotels and $0.7million in interest. This represents approximately ten per cent of revenue received by the Victorian government from this source.

The majority of gaming revenue goes directly into key areas such as Victoria’s hospitals and charities in the health sector.

CSF funds are distributed to various Victorian Government departments which in turn invest in a range of programs and projects in the community. The government allocates CSF funding to a range of initiatives consistent with the purposes of the Fund as outlined in the legislation:

* addressing problem gambling (this is the first call on the Fund and includes payment of amounts into the Responsible Gambling Fund1);
* drug education, treatment and rehabilitation;
* financial counselling support for families in crisis;
* youth programs;
* sport and recreation;
* arts and tourism;
* advancement of the community as determined by the minister; and
* costs associated with administering the CSF.

In addition, on 1 September each year, the legislation allocates one day’s CSF revenue to the Veterans Fund.

The CSF invests in a wide range of community-based organisations and councils to enable and support the creation of strong and sustainable communities across a range of government portfolio areas.

Any interest on funds held in the CSF is retained and also distributed for the community purposes listed above.

 **2015-16 CSF expenditure by portfolio**

 (percentages subject to annual variation)