



10 September 2024

**THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING (NCPG) AND PARTNERS
SUPPORT THE PASSING OF THE CASINO CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL**

The National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) supports the passing of the Casino Control (Amendment) Bill. The amendments ensure that gambling laws in Singapore keep pace with changes in the wider gambling landscape, and better protect vulnerable individuals and families from the harms of problem gambling.

By streamlining processes, particularly the provisions that enable the NCPG and its Committees to quickly substitute an Exclusion Order with a Visit Limit and vice versa, these changes will strengthen existing safeguards to better protect vulnerable groups. The NCPG also welcomes the amendments that complement the exclusion regime and promote safer gambling. These include:

- a. Making an excluded person liable for entering, remaining or taking part in gambling on casino premises if it is proven that he knows, or ought reasonably to know that he was an excluded person. Currently, the Gambling Regulatory Authority (GRA) has to prove that the excluded person was aware of his exclusion status when he entered the casino, which can be difficult; and
- b. Enhancing deterrence against persons who contravene gambling safeguards, by increasing the penalties for:
 - i. **A minor refusing to give particulars or using false evidence of age to enter a casino**, from a maximum fine of \$1,000 to \$10,000. The increased fine would be aligned with the penalties for similar offences under the Gambling Control Act; and

- ii. **Singapore Citizens or Permanent Residents entering casinos without paying for entry levy**, from a maximum fine of \$1,000 to \$1,500 (in addition to the amount of entry levy owed).




Chairman of the NCPG, Mr Sim Gim Guan, said: *“The NCPG has been working closely with MSF to regularly review the social safeguards to ensure problem gambling remains under control. The NCPG will work with the GRA to execute the exclusions and visit limits regime in accordance with the Casino Control Act and Gambling Control Act. The NCPG will also continue to run public education campaigns to raise awareness on the harms of problem gambling and provide help services. Individuals or families who need help can call the NCPG Helpline at 1800-6-668-668 or use the webchat at www.ncpg.org.sg.”*

NCPG’s partners that run programmes for problem gamblers have also voiced their support for these amendments. They agreed that the new measures better protect vulnerable individuals and families from the harms of problem gambling.

Reverend Vincent Lee, President of Adullam Life Counselling and Ms Pearl Lee, Volunteer Management Manager at Adullam Life Counselling, said: *“We support the Government’s efforts to strengthen both upstream and downstream measures to enhance protection for vulnerable groups and promote a safer gambling environment overall. From over a decade of experience, we also know that community support is crucial in helping individuals break free from their gambling habits, which harm both themselves and their loved ones.”*

Dr Lambert Low, Senior Consultant and Chief of the Addiction Medicine Department at the Institute of Mental Health (IMH), said: *“The new flexibility to switch immediately between an Exclusion Order and a Visit Limit is significant in that it allows for timely adjustments that better support the individual. It also provides a more responsive approach for families to better support their loved ones in reducing the risk of relapse, so that they can better overcome their gambling addiction.”*

Annex: List of NCPG's partners supporting the passing of the Casino Control (Amendment) Bill

Name of Agency	About The Agency
<p>Adullam Life Counselling</p>  <p>The logo for Adullam Life Counselling features the word 'ADULLAM' in a bold, red, sans-serif font. Below it, the words 'LIFE COUNSELLING' are written in a smaller, red, sans-serif font. To the right of the text, there is a small red icon of a family consisting of two adults and a child.</p>	<p>Adullam Life Counselling runs programmes that endeavours to assist problem gamblers regain control of their lives though group support including forming communities, debt education, and practical help and applications to resolve their debt situation so that the individuals, including their families, could get out of the stranglehold of debts.</p>
<p>Arise2Care Community Services</p>  <p>The logo for Arise2Care features a stylized 'A' in yellow and blue, followed by a '2' in blue and a 'C' in red. Below the graphic, the text 'Arise2care' is written in a black, sans-serif font.</p>	<p>Arise2Care aims to transform the lives of persons with problem gambling through their gambling recovery programme and rebuild family relationships through their Support Groups. They also provide debt counselling services.</p>
<p>Blessed Grace Social Services</p>  <p>The logo for Blessed Grace Social Services is a pink square containing the Chinese characters '蒙恩' in white. Below the characters, the text 'BLESSED GRACE SOCIAL SERVICES' is written in white, with '社 会 服 务' (Social Services) written in Chinese characters below it.</p>	<p>Blessed Grace Social Services assists individuals and affected family members facing problems due to gambling. Together with those in recovery, the Centre provides guidance and support to help people break free from their gambling addiction. Services include debt management and weekly support groups.</p>
<p>One Hope Centre</p>	<p>One Hope Centre provides professional counselling services and support programmes to individuals and families</p>

 <p>One Hope Centre</p>	<p>affected by gambling addiction and other addictive behaviours.</p>
<p>The Silver Lining Community Services</p>  <p>THE SILVER LINING 晨曦 COMMUNITY SERVICES LTD</p>	<p>The Silver Lining provides problem gambling rehabilitation, debt management counselling, and crisis intervention for affected persons and their family members. Help seekers will find support and empowerment to handle issues like gambling addiction and related debt problems with legal and illegal moneylenders.</p>
<p>WE CARE Community Services</p>  <p>WE CARE COMMUNITY SERVICES</p>	<p>WE CARE provides treatment and support for persons and families affected by addiction. For gambling issues, it offers the GRIP (Gambling Recovery and Intervention Programme) treatment. Counselling therapy is conducted by trained professional addiction specialists. A hub for several recovery support groups, WE CARE hosts the Gamblers Anonymous group meetings.</p>
<p>The Resilienz Clinic (NCPG's appointed agency)</p>  <p>RESILIENZ CLINIC</p>	<p>The Resilienz Clinic is a mental health clinic that provides assessment, counselling services and psychiatric services to a wide range of psychological conditions, including gambling addiction.</p>
<p>National Addictions Management Service (NAMS) at the Institute of Mental Health (IMH)</p>	<p>NAMS offers comprehensive assessment and treatment to help individuals overcome gambling addiction and regain control of their lives.</p>

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