ClubsACT Welcomes Launch of Clubs Industry Inquiry Consultation

ClubsACT welcomes today's announcement by Minister for Gaming Reform, Dr Marisa Paterson, establishing the consultation process for the independent inquiry into the future of Canberra's club industry.

ClubsACT CEO, Craig Shannon said *"Clubs are at the heart of our city's social fabric—providing affordable meals, safe spaces for families, sporting facilities, entertainment, and millions of dollars in community contributions each year. The inquiry is a timely opportunity to chart a sustainable and vibrant future for our sector, ensuring clubs remain central to Canberra's community life for generations to come.*

This consultation process is an important step in securing the future of our industry. ClubsACT strongly supports open dialogue about how we can diversify, strengthen financial sustainability, and keep delivering for the community. We commend the ACT Government and the independent inquiry panel for creating an inclusive process that invites genuine participation."

Mr Shannon continued:

"Our clubs employ thousands of Canberrans, including a large proportion of casual and part-time workers, and we want to ensure their jobs are protected as the industry evolves. We know the community values clubs as safe, welcoming places for families, veterans, sportspeople, and social groups. This inquiry is a chance to safeguard that role while finding new ways to serve our members.

The challenge before us is not just about reducing reliance on gaming revenue—it's about building new revenue streams, investing in innovation, and giving clubs the regulatory certainty they need to plan for the long term. We also see this as an opportunity to reset the conversation. Too often, the role clubs play in supporting local sport, arts, multicultural events, and charitable causes is overlooked. This process can put that contribution front and centre."

Mr Shannon said *"Ultimately, the future of the industry must be built in partnership—with government, with our workers, and most importantly, with the community we serve. That's why I strongly encourage all stakeholders to engage with the consultation and help shape a sustainable path forward."*

ClubsACT looks forward to contributing constructively to the inquiry and will work closely with government, the independent panel, and the community to ensure the outcomes support both the long-term viability of clubs and the continued delivery of vital community services.

Kind regards



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30 September 2025

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