

# Andrew Manning

## Community Advocate on Gambling

Andrew Manning commenced in his role as the Community Advocate on Gambling in March of 2006. With experience as a local government manager at Maribyrnong and more recently, Frankston Councils, he has been an active contributor to supporting the work of the Local Government Working Group on Gambling (LWGOG) and many of its initiatives. In addition, Andrew is a former member of the State Government's Problem Gambling Roundtable and now the Product Safety Working Party for the Responsible Gambling Ministerial Advisory Council.

Outlining his aims as the newly appointed Advocate, Andrew stated in the March VLGA bulletin:

"The Community Advocacy on Gambling Project is a very important project, fundamentally because it comes at a time when Victoria's gambling landscape is going to be the subject of close scrutiny and debate over its future in the next year by this current and next state government. I have highlighted elsewhere in this bulletin the gambling license review process. This review is examining pokies but it is also investigating wagering, Club Keno and funding arrangements for the racing industry post 2012. Clearly, part of my focus in the initial period of the advocacy project will be about providing support to communities wanting to participate and contribute to these reviews.

In addition, my other short term imperative is about establishing a presence and profile for the Advocacy project. Building up contacts and knowledge bases to support the project during its funding period will be invaluable to delivering the potentials of the project. To assist me in fulfilling that need, I have invited applications for an appointment to a position of Gambling Research and Support Officer to work alongside myself.

The third component of what I will be attending to in the start up phase is establishing the governance arrangements to support the project over the funded period. Seeking broad community input and ownership about the advocacy project will inform the approach I have been mandated to put in place. These governance arrangements will then need to be reflected in the development of a coherent Business Plan to guide the actions of the project, a plan that contains concrete actions, agreed outputs and measures that the project can be held accountable for implementing.

However, I want to emphasize that the Community Advocacy on Gambling Project is here as a resource to support community engagement in debates on gambling issues. I warmly encourage people in the community, local groups, Councils and their officers, to get in touch with this service if there is a gambling related issue that is of concern. I can be contacted at the office on (03) 9347 3950 or by email at [andrew@gamblingadvocacy.org.au](mailto:andrew@gamblingadvocacy.org.au)".