

Membership in excess of 500,000 but challenging times ahead

Membership of community based licensed Clubs in the ACT has passed the half million mark for the first time.

A report into the socio economic impact of ACT community based licensed clubs conducted by the Allen Consulting Group shows total membership of 510,00, an increase of 25% since 2002.

Clubs ACT President David Lalor says the growth in membership is encouraging.

“We know some people are members of more than one club but a membership in excess of half a million, in a city of 330,000, is a big number. It suggests that most adults in Canberra are members of one or more of our clubs. The figure says community based clubs are an important part of Canberra’s social infrastructure and that we are valued and appreciated by the people of the ACT”.

But despite the growth in membership numbers, many of the ACT’s community based clubs are facing difficult times.

Since 2002, there has been –

- A decline in *total revenue* by 2.7 per cent to \$272.5 million
- Gaming machine revenue as a proportion of total revenue has dropped by nearly 8 per cent;
- a decline in *total expenditure* by 14 per cent from \$240.4 million to \$207.8 million in 2007; and
- A decline in the *total value of capital assets* by 22 per cent.

Mr Lalor says community based clubs face challenging times ahead.

“We operate in a highly competitive market place and need to ensure we stay relevant to our membership of over half a million people. This report demonstrates that clubs are major contributors to the local community and the local economy. We appreciate the support we receive from the people of the ACT and hope that everyone understands that Clubs exist for the sole purpose of providing benefit to our local communities”.

Please find attached a summary of the findings of the Allen Consulting Group SEIS report.

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