

## Carol Stevenson1

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**From:** andrew whiley  
**Sent:** Monday, 20 May 2024 9:45 pm  
**To:** gambling commission Mail in List - info  
**Subject:** Submission in Support for the Grand Casino Dunedin License Renewal

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DUNEDIN CASINOS LIMITED

This letter is being submitted in Support for the Grand Casino Dunedin License Renewal.

Grand Casino Dunedin has been an integral part of our community for over 25 years. Through their charitable trust, they have made grants to the Dunedin Community exceeding \$4 million and are proud sponsors of our city's leading events in the Arts, Sports and Business sectors.

I am submitting as a Dunedin citizen, but for the Hearings Panel information I am a Dunedin City Councillor since 2013. I currently Chair the Economic Development Committee and outside of Council, I also Chair two not-for-profit organisations: Dunedin Community House and Volunteer South. I see the support and impact that the grant funding injects to many of our smaller organisations especially in the social sector. At the time of reduced funding from the DIA, Lotteries, Community Grant organisations and other Class 4 funding sources, having the Grand Casino Dunedin Charitable Trust is vital with a steady stream of funds being injected into our community.

In my Dunedin City Councillor role, as mentioned, I am the Chair of Economic Development. The Grand Casino Dunedin is not just a strong supporter of events like the Business South Business Awards but it is a big part of our city's tourism offerings. It provides the city with a unique venue that attracts visitors to enjoy an evening in town, in a warm safe and social space, that provides great service.

The Grand Casino Dunedin is also seen as a leading employer. They have an environment where employees are well catered for with strong trainee programmes. They look after their staff especially when many are new to hospitality or the gaming industry which creates a pathway for long term career opportunities here in Dunedin and beyond.

I appreciate that not all submitters will see the positives that the Grand Casino Dunedin brings to our community. Problem gambling is an issue, but since Covid, we have seen a growth in gambling issues coming from online gambling addiction with millions being lost to unregulated overseas websites and apps. I have talked with past staff members and regular casino visitors/members about the host responsibility at the casino and they say that because of the small boutique style of the Grand Casino Dunedin, that the staff are very aware of who the regulars are and what their gambling style is. They can sense when someone is losing more than they can afford and in a community like Dunedin, it is very much two-degrees of separation. The staff are very engaging and supportive and try to ensure everyone is doing okay.

Quite a few older people I know have also found the casino a very social place (especially in winter) where they may enjoy a lovely "special priced" lunch, a good catch up with friends, whether or not they actually gamble when they visit. The Grand Casino Dunedin does cater for a diverse part of our community in an area where they feel safe, warm and can have some fun.

In conclusion, I urge the Gambling Commission to consider the casino's contributions and commitment to the Dunedin community over the last 25 years. The Grand Casino Dunedin is an asset to the city and have proven to be an extremely good corporate citizen. Please support the renewal of Grand Casino Dunedin's license.

I do wish to appear in front of the Gambling Commission Hearing Panel and speak to my submission.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Whiley