

Sent: Monday, 6 August 2018 12:17 PM
To: gambling commission Mail in List - info
Subject: Christchurch Casino Licence Renewal Support Submission.

To the Gambling Commission.

Christchurch Casino Licence Renewal Submission.

I submit this email as a submission in support of the Christchurch Casino being granted a renewal of their Licence. There are a number of reasons why I strongly support the renewal many of which I will provide.

Over many years I as a voluntary fundraiser for young sportspeople, sporting organisations or sick children has had amazing support from our Casino who have willingly provided me with support by way of venue, food & beverages and even a contribution of auction prizes all for the sole benefit of the worthy recipients. Mr Anderson and his team have been exemplary.

Further in my past role as a City Councillor and Deputy Mayor I always attended the annual funding distribution conducted by the Ch-Ch Casino Independent Trust which bestowed considerable amounts of funding on many organisations in need around our City in order to assist with the organisations community work. On a further personal note I was a founding member of "CENTRE CIRCLE" which was an organisation founded by our late football colleague and icon Steve Sumner. Our object was to raise awareness and funding for Junior Football in our community. The Ch-Ch Casino has supported us all along providing the venue and financial support for our cause. In fact we only recently had a 6am breakfast taking in a World Cup football match at the Casino and we had 135 attendees. It is important to note that some would see a Casino as a one way street take take take but through my observance over the years the Casino puts plenty back into society. The independent trust I have already mentioned, and I know that they provide funding to a number of our City's organisations---to mention a few, Ronald McDonald House, Woolston Brass Band, New Brighton Life Saving Club and the Court Theatre and even raffle prizes for school fundraisers..

Another important aspect to the Casino is the very safe environment factor. One sees particularly elderly and in many cases widows who meet and greet with other like folk to share stories, perhaps a snack, enjoy entertainment regularly provided and have a wee play knowing that they will not be intimidated. The Casino has processes in place to identify those that may be gambling excessively or overfueling alcohol consumption and they take appropriate action.

I know it is sad that some people become addicted to gambling with serious consequences but no one is forced to gamble. It is about personal responsibility which unfortunately some people cannot apply. I look back when our Council conducted the City gambling submissions and having sat through each day of submissions the submitters who had life changing outcomes for their gambling habit often mentioned that they frequented pub pokies more so than the Casino.

I finish by strongly recommending that The Christchurch Casino be granted a favourable hearing and thus renewal of their licence.

Thank you.

Regards,
Norm Withers.M.N.Z.M.