

# PERTH CASINO ROYAL COMMISSION

**Response by**

**David Halge**

## Qualifications and Experience

1. M.Bus, Grad Dip in Business Administration, B.Ed, BA, Dip in Pub Admin.

I started my working career as a Teacher (overseas and in Western Australia).

I joined the WA Public Service in 1970 and worked at the Police Department/Road Traffic Authority/Department of Motor Vehicles in the Licensing Branch.

I worked at the Bureau of Consumer Affairs from 1974 to 1975. I was the Education Officer and my role was to educate the general public on the provisions of the Act.

From 1976 to 1982 I worked at the Public Service Board (the RH Doig Management Development Centre) conducting Training courses for all sectors of the Public Service.

In 1983 I worked at the Office of the Minister for Industrial Relations assisting with the establishment of the Occupational Health, Welfare and Safety Commission and Department.

In 1984 I worked for the Department of Occupational Health, Welfare and Safety as the Senior Research Officer. My job was to oversee and direct research into similar legislation from around the world with a view to establishing a state of the art system for work related health and safety.

In 1985 I joined the Department of Racing and Gaming. Initially I worked as the Director of Corporate Services.

In 1987 I was promoted to Director of Gaming. This involved the licensing and supervision of all permitted gaming (bingo, lotteries, two-up and gaming) in the community. It did not include Casino gaming. I held this position till 1997.

During the period 1987 to 1997 I also acted in the Positions of Director of Liquor Licensing and Director of the Casino Control Division.

In 1997 the Gaming Division and Casino Control Division were amalgamated and I was appointed Director of the Operations Division. I was also appointed to the role of Chief Casino Officer. As Director of the Operations Division I was responsible for the

-licensing and regulation of all liquor outlets

-licensing and regulation of all gaming in the community, and

-licensing and regulation of casino gaming at Burswood/Crown Casino.

In 2007 I retired in the position.

## Role as the Chief Casino Officer

2. I was appointed as Chief Casino Officer in 1997 and continued in that position until my retirement in 2007.

3. There was no formal training for the role/position of Chief Casino Officer.
4. Because of the other duties and responsibilities of the position I held (ie Director of Operations) it could be said that I was the Chief Casino Officer on a part time basis.
  - (a) No specific hours or days were allocated to the position of CCO. I dealt with CCO duties as required. Some days I would deal mainly with CCO matters while other days I would only devote a short period of time to Casino matters.
  - (b) I believe I was able to discharge the functions of the CCO adequately.
  - (c) I was also carrying out other roles of the Director of Operations (ie licensing and regulation of liquor outlets and licensing and regulation of permitted gaming in the community).
5. My remuneration as Director of Operations (which included Chief Casino Officer) was \$102,000.

### **Powers, duties and obligations of the CCO**

6. No formal training or information was provided before or after my appointment about the powers, responsibilities and obligations of the CCO. My understanding as to the powers, responsibilities and obligations was learnt 'on the job' and came from the provisions of the Casino Control Act.
7. As executive officer to the Gaming and Wagering Commission it was my responsibility to write and/or vet all submissions to the Commission and attend all Commission meetings. Consequently I was aware of all decisions of the Commission in relation to the Casino.
  - (a) this gave me direction as to the responsibilities and obligations in respect of the Casino's regulation.
  - (b) to the best of my knowledge the inspection of the Casino by departmental inspectors did not involve money laundering or cash and electronic transactions at the Casino or criminals infiltrating Casino operations. These matters fell to the Police unit which investigated and reported to the Commission. To the best of my knowledge the unit was disbanded in the late 1990's.

### **Discharge of duties, powers and functions of the CCO**

8. I discharged my powers as CCO through the licensing and inspection branches of the Department of Racing Gaming and Liquor. In all matters I acted on the direction of the Commission.
9. All risk assessment was conducted on the direction of the Commission.
10. I am not aware of any risk assessment conducted by others in relation to the Casino while I was CCO.
11. I was of the view that the licensing and inspection requirements imposed by the Commission were adequate and worked well.
12. The only time I interacted with regulators from other states was at yearly Casino conferences. I cannot recall providing any information to other Australian States.
13. The Commission delegated its powers to me as the CCO pursuant to the G&W Act.
14. I cannot recall if I, as CCO officially delegated to other offices of the Commission any powers and functions for the performance of their duties.

15. To the best of my knowledge I did not exempt anyone from their obligations under the G&W Act.
16. I cannot recall being obstructed in the performance of my duties or the exercise of my powers as CCO.

### **Relationship with the Gaming and Wagering Commission**

17. My role as CCO was to provide submissions and recommendations (where appropriate) to the Commission on a monthly basis. The submissions generally emanated from the Casino relating to new games or gaming machines they wished to introduce at the Casino.
18. As stated above, the nature of the submissions was the introduction of new games and/or machines by the Casino. On occasions, where there was breach of the Regulations or Directions, the submission would detail the breach and include a recommendation and, where appropriate, require a Casino representative to attend the Commission meeting.  
The decision making process I used was, in all circumstances, related to maintaining the integrity of gaming at the Casino.
19. All submissions and recommendations in relation to the licensing and inspection requirements in relation to the Casino were made primarily to maintain the integrity of gaming operations at the Casino.

### **Conflicts of Interest**

20. I was not provided with any formal information regarding conflicts of interest.
21. As stated above, I was not provided with any formal information regarding conflicts of interest.
22. I did not have any conflicts of interest (including family, friends or business associates) during my tenure as CCO.
23. During my tenure as CCO, I was not involved with any conflicts of interest policy for staff involved with the licensing or inspection of the Casino. To the best of my knowledge there was no discussion with the Commission as to whether a conflicts of interest policy should be developed.