

Most problem gamblers seek ban

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QUEENSLAND – Most of the almost 700 problem gamblers banned from pubs and clubs under new Queensland government laws dobed themselves in.

Deputy Premier Anna Bligh has released figures for the past eight months, showing most of the 694 Queenslanders on a register of problem gamblers had listed themselves as a way of curbing their habits.

Anyone on the register was banned from entering pubs and clubs, and photos of them are circulated so staff know not to let them in.

In the eight-month period, there were 1113 separate occasions on which problem gamblers were refused access to pokies venues, meaning some of the 694 had been stopped from entering more than one venue.

Only 15 of the 1113 instances involved venues denying entry to people they considered to be gambling addicts.

The area with the highest amount of exclusions, per capita, was the mining town of Mount Isa, in the state's northwest.

"Queensland is the envy of all states with thorough, responsible gambling programs," Ms Bligh said.

"This is not only about the government helping problem gamblers ... it's also about problem gamblers helping themselves."

The legislation was introduced in May last year, and allows problem gamblers to get in first and "self-exclude" from pokie venues.