

Re: Follow up

From: Confidential
To: [REDACTED]
Date: Fri, 18 Jun 2021 13:10:51 +1000
Attachments: 18062021130507-0001.pdf (395.48 kB)

To: Royal Commission into the Casino Operator and Licence

Re: Community ongoing concerns about money laundering that occurred at the Crown Casino.

Attached please find my cover declaration.

First of all I would like to thank the Royal Commission to have met and listened to the concerns I presented over the issue of money laundering at Crown Casino.

As explained at the meeting, being a community leader over the years I received a lot of complaints from community members who have raised the serious concern over the issue of money launder at Crown Casino which I would like to present it in a written submission as below.

Community concerns:

- Money laundering is a serious crime and the member of the Vietnamese community do not tolerate but it has potential to present the Vietnamese community in a very negative way which will damage the community reputation. This was one of the concerns because it doesn't reflect the contributions by the community which we know the community is doing its best in building a resilient and harmonious community.
- Money laundering activities have potential to attract the children of the Vietnamese community members into a different pathway, quite often end up on the other side of the law.
- One of the concerns was these activities suggested to have strong linkage with the Vietnamese government. The concern about this is the Vietnamese communist cells were operating with the Crown Casino complex, this mean these operations would be able to monitor and sensor the activities and members of the Vietnamese community. This has always been the concern by the Vietnamese community as we were refugees that fled from the communist regime.

Alleged Activities that link to money laundering:

- 1. Entertainment by the Vietnamese artists from Vietnam, this was known as concert (from here on it will be referred as "concert") from Vietnam which were regularly brought over by organisers approximately one every two months.
- 2. Games on the floor such Baccarat card game / Bai Gow that was knowingly or unknowingly providing the means with the money laundering.

Descriptions of how the alleged activities were linked to money laundering.

1. Organised Concerts that had artists from Vietnam.

There were quite a few members of the Vietnamese community who have anonymously informed me about certain individuals in the community who were willing to give the \$50,000 for organising these kinds of concerts and expected only \$40,000 in return from the concert organisers. This is about 20% that they are willing to forfeit. These singers are suspected to have strong linkage with the Vietnamese communist regime.

It was explained that Crown Casino was interested in providing some forms of entertainments in Vietnamese which they can use that as a form of attraction to lure more gamblers, particularly the high rollers to their venue. Crown Casino normally bought all the VIP tickets prior to the actual concerts, these tickets were estimated to be approximately about 200 tickets at the price of \$200 per ticket. Crown Casino then used these tickets as a form of reward to give out as a compliment to the Mahogany or Maple (?) members. 200 tickets at the price of \$200 per ticket which equates to \$40,000. The rest of the tickets were being sold at a cheaper price to mostly the Vietnamese international students, we believed, this is how the concert organiser was making their money.

These concerts always included a number of artists & performers from Vietnam to perform. The information we received were the fee for these artists and performers were quite high, it was exceeding \$10,000 USD per person, per night of their

performance. We noticed that when these artists and performers arrived in Australia, they normally performed at Crown Casino in Melbourne, Star city in Sydney or other locations, Brisbane entertainment centre before travelling to Adelaide or Perth for other performances. This mean each of the popular artist would be earning about \$ 40,000 – 50,000 USD per for Australia tour. The community is questioning about whether these people were paying tax accordingly as they are required to when they were working in Australia?

According to the Australian Taxation guideline, any foreigner who work in Australia they are required to pay their tax accordingly (i.e the first dollar that they made they are required to pay over 32 cents).

I have reported this the ATO, however ATO responses were, ATO do not have enough resources to go after Crown Casino. Also according the ATO; Crown Casino would have all the paperwork to cover for these activities.

We understand that by the Australia required; anyone who brings over \$10,000 AUD out the country, it needs to be declared. I was made aware that these artists never made any declaration, the question is why not?

I was also informed by the undisclosed sources; these artists would receive their payments once they arrived back in Vietnam, this is another methodology of money laundering which is by channelling the money through the black market to get money through to Vietnam for these payments.

Games on the Floor (Baccarat or Pai Gow).

With the game of Baccarat, you can bet on either BANKER or PLAYER. The organised syndicates can utilise this game clean their money by having their team members betting on both sides so you would get the same outcome.

Pai Gow is a Chinse dominoes game, and it's popular with people with Asian background.

With the Pai Gow, it was explained to me, but I was not sure, so I didn't mention in my meeting with you. Apparently, people can utilise Pai Gow to clean their money by forming a team which consist of one person with a lot of money can be a BANKER and other team members can bet as players. So, if the BANKER lost a bet, they would lose it to their teammate and vice versa. With this game, Crown Casino will take 5% of the winning. 5% is much smaller than the 20% they were willing to forfeit.

I was also made aware of other activities that took place on the gaming floor such as loan sharks targeting the vulnerable gamblers who want to borrow money from these loan sharks in trying to win back their losses. Quite often they were the one that end up with a hefty debt to a point that they can no longer repay their debt which they were then forced into carry out illegal activities such minding the marijuana cultivation.

I understand that gambling venues ultimate objective is to maximise their profits which we would have not any issue with, however we do have a serious concern if in the process of doing so they provide platforms for illegal activities to take place. We also have concerns that in the process of maximise their profits they have indeed created a more complex problem for in our society such gambling issue, suiciding, mental health. These problems are often met by the government and community like us. As far as I am concern Crown has never approached us or show any interest in discussing about the support for the problem gambling.

What have been done?

Several years ago, I have approached Crown Casino in raising some issue of concerns about the possibility of strong relationship between the Vietnamese communist government with the organised concerts. We raised the possibility of our community members were being watched and censored by the communist regime. In these regards, we were also concerning about the national security. At the time I didn't raise with Crown Casino about the issue of money laundering as I didn't believe that Crown Casino want to listen to us about this issue.

Reported to the Immigration department raising the concerns over these visa holders were not adhering to the conditions.

Reported to the ATO – raising the concerns over on the possibility of these oversea artists and concerts organisers were not pay tax.

In conclusion:

I hope this submission will help you with your investigation. I am only providing information that I received over the years and putting forward to you for your consideration. I am not in the position to say whether Crown Casino is fit to hold licence or not as I believe whether Crown Casino holds the licence or other organisation holds the licence the money laundering would still take place on the gaming floor.

Best regards,

Confidential



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