



11 SEP 2017

Andrew Wilkie MP
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR DENISON

Tasmanian Gambling Study
ACIL Allen Consulting
Level 9, 60 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Submission to the 4th Social and Economic Impact Study of Gambling in Tasmania

It is clear from the evidence that current harm minimisation measures are not working in Tasmania and that the social and economic impacts of gambling, particularly gambling on electronic gaming machines, are immense. Tasmanians spend close to \$200 million every year on these machines which are concentrated in low socio-economic areas such as Glenorchy. This community alone loses close to \$2 million a month on the pokies, almost half of which is gouged from gambling addicts.

We know how to reduce the harm of poker machines. The Productivity Commission's 2010 report and recent Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform inquiries provide ample, empirical evidence for two key measures: \$1-maximum bets and mandatory pre-commitment. Other measures typically supported by the poker machine industry, such as counselling, advertising restrictions, alcohol bans, ATM restrictions and self-exclusion may be useful but if they make any difference, it is only at the margins.

However, the mistake was made 20 years ago by allowing poker machines into Tasmanian pubs and clubs in the first place. Removing them would be the ultimate harm minimisation measure, and the Tasmanian Government now has that opportunity with the Federal Group's exclusive licence coming to an end. All the Government need do is give notice next year that all poker machines must be removed from pubs and clubs in 2023. The social benefits of such a move are undeniable and, according to Anglicare economic modelling, would create hundreds of jobs and be worth millions of dollars annually to the economy.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Wilkie MP
Independent Member for Denison