

## Submissions to the 2020 Social and Economic Impact Study into Gambling in Tasmania

**Name:** Evan Andrew Hadkins

- 1. All submissions will be treated as public unless you wish it to be treated as confidential. Please indicate your preference:**  
My submission can be made public
- 2. What impact do you think gambling has on the Tasmanian community - the benefits and the costs?**  
Benefits. Entertainment for some. Costs. Extreme financial problems for some individuals. Money diverted from more productive and even entertaining activities. For those with gambling problems many relationship and family problems - in a few cases, crime.
- 3. What impact do you think gambling has on other Tasmanian industries and the economy?**  
It robs them of funds.
- 4. What's your view on Tasmania's current gambling harm minimisation measures? What further measures do you think should be considered?**  
The current measures generally put the responsibility of the individual (those responsible for the community response, shirk their responsibility). Minimum, limits on what can be bet on one spin (\$1 seems a sensible amount).
- 5. What's your view on whether gambling venues adhere to responsible gambling practices?**  
Generally, probably yes. But it only takes a few exceptions to devastate people's lives. Enforce limits on the amount that can be bet in any session.
- 6. What impact did the COVID-19 lockdown have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**  
None at all.
- 7. What impact did the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions on gaming venues have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**  
None at all.
- 8. Any other matters you wish to raise or general comments you wish to make?**  
Discussion of alternative ways for states to raise revenue other than tax on gambling. Transparency of donations to political parties. Transparency of lobbying by industry groups.

## Submissions to the 2020 Social and Economic Impact Study into Gambling in Tasmania

Name: Kasia Smith

1. **All submissions will be treated as public unless you wish it to be treated as confidential. Please indicate your preference:**

My submission can be made public

2. **What impact do you think gambling has on the Tasmanian community - the benefits and the costs?**

We have witnessed some of the positive effects of the availability of poker machine venues. We have seen elderly persons who are lonely and have reduced opportunities for social contact, find these venues provide an opportunity to interact and offer social interaction. The staff at these venues know and converse these people, and provide that vital human contact. In addition, we have seen that these lonely people have a nutritious low cost meal at these venues. The people that we have witnessed, spend very little on the machines - they are there to be in a social situation, rather than the alternative of being alone at home.

Without these venues, the people we have seen, would be home alone, as 'gone are the days' of Senior Citizens clubs and like venues. The cost of restricting access to the poker machine venues would result in quite a number of lonely people becoming more isolated, as because they are 'unseen', they are forgotten. We have also witnessed a sad person who used the poker machine venue. She was the wife of a prominent local business man. We frequented that local business, and observed this man's bullying treatment of his staff, and he also used this on his customers, whenever he could. When we regularly saw his wife at the poker machine venue, we could only sympathise with her, as we believed she may have also been a victim of the bullying, and this was her only escape.

Before reforms are undertaken to change the terms and conditions of physical gambling venues, the Tasmanian community needs to look at why many people are going to gambling venues.

3. **What impact do you think gambling has on other Tasmanian industries and the economy?**

I don't have an opinion on this

4. **What's your view on Tasmania's current gambling harm minimisation measures? What further measures do you think should be considered?**

The current harm minimisation measures are adequate. If a person has a problem with gambling, then that person needs to take personal responsibility for their addiction. The harm minimisation measures cannot be 'mother', 'father', 'guardian'. Somewhere, sometime, the person with the gambling addiction, needs to admit this, and take personal responsibility. For example, what measures of harm minimisation are in place for and alcohol addiction? Does the bottle shop attendant ask if the purchaser has an alcohol addiction and prevent a purchase? It is reliant on the purchaser to admit the addiction, and take personal responsibility. There is support for those with an alcohol addiction, for those who wish to admit this and do something about it. Again, those who have a nicotine addiction, need to take personal responsibility for this addiction before they can access the support that can be provided. There is also support for those who have a gambling addiction, and who admit this, and wish to do something about it - without having to transfer the responsibility to the venue. Alcohol addiction responsibility is not transferred to the bottle shop, nicotine addiction responsibility is not transferred to the outlet that sells cigarettes. And gambling addiction responsibility should not be transferred to the venue that provides this entertainment to the majority of the population.

5. **What's your view on whether gambling venues adhere to responsible gambling practices?**

When my daughter was working to support herself while undertaking her University studies, she worked at a gaming venue. As a condition of her license she was required to monitor those who were deemed to have a gambling problem. She diligently adhered to these requirements, as according to The Act, the frontline worker is equally responsible as the venue, and face significant fines for non-compliance. As a student she could not afford the fine, but this aside, she and her co-workers took their responsibilities seriously and always did their utmost to adhere to responsible gambling practices at their venue. While we do not currently regularly go to gambling venues, during our past experiences, the venues have always adhered to responsible gambling practices.

**6. What impact did the COVID-19 lockdown have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**

We have not had any personal impact

**7. What impact did the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions on gaming venues have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**

To our knowledge, this has not had any personal effect

**8. Any other matters you wish to raise or general comments you wish to make?**

During the course of answering the questions of this survey, I have found the questions to be weighted, and seeking a negative response regarding gambling regulations and poker machine venues. Because of this, I do not find this survey to be an objective submission of views of the Tasmanian community. We have a great issue with those who are trying to make a change to 'protect' a micro minority who has a gambling problem. The so called 'gambling problem' with poker machine venues, is a micro problem, compared to online gambling. The poker machine venues are visible and can be managed, but online gambling is personal and at the touch on one's phone! This is the REAL gambling problem that to this time, has not been addressed!

## Submissions to the 2020 Social and Economic Impact Study into Gambling in Tasmania

Name: Robert Blaauw

1. **All submissions will be treated as public unless you wish it to be treated as confidential. Please indicate your preference:**  
My submission can be made public
2. **What impact do you think gambling has on the Tasmanian community - the benefits and the costs?**  
Family finances are diverted from normal family care to gambling creating hardship. Funds that would normally be used purchasing goods and services are diverted to gambling, causing significant reduction in business activity that has flow on community benefit. Gambling loss causes stress in individuals and families, which often results in severe mental and physical impacts on innocent people.
3. **What impact do you think gambling has on other Tasmanian industries and the economy?**  
Significant loss of purchasing goods and services from business. Tas Government earns gambling revenue which it uses to provide government services. I don't believe the benefits the community receives from gambling tax, in any way justifies the community loss and cost from gambling not just problem gambling.
4. **What's your view on Tasmania's current gambling harm minimisation measures? What further measures do you think should be considered?**  
Research I have seen show gambling harm minimisation is not working. It is mostly managed by gambling venues who have a vested interest to maintain gambling income. There is still a lot of reported gambling related harm to people and business
5. **What's your view on whether gambling venues adhere to responsible gambling practices?**  
Gambling venues pay basic lip service to responsible gambling. A significant reduction in available gambling opportunities. I.e. significant reduction in venues and machines. Enforced time and \$ caps on gambling on remaining locations and methods.
6. **What impact did the COVID-19 lockdown have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**  
No impact on myself or family
7. **What impact did the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions on gaming venues have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**  
No impact on myself or family. Significant dismay that the Covid restrictions didn't result in ongoing gambling reduction.
8. **Any other matters you wish to raise or general comments you wish to make?**  
Having the government regulate an area it has a vested interest in promoting to maintain revenue is a major issue. The full cost of gambling impacts on our community needs to be independently assessed so that a gambling system that ensures all impact costs are understood and recoverable is in place. I personally would like to see minimal gambling venues with people's enjoyment of the hard earned \$ they have used for family and community. That happiness in life is derived from family and community activity. That it is very hard for people to indulge in destructive addictions. Like has been done for cigarettes and to some degree alcohol. Achieved through limiting availability, pricing to recover health and community costs, discourage use through pricing and impact advertising and finally education of young people off negatives around gambling to dissuade taking it up and the associated addiction issues. Thanks for the opportunity to provide input.

## Submissions to the 2020 Social and Economic Impact Study into Gambling in Tasmania

**Name:** Michael Swanton

- 1. All submissions will be treated as public unless you wish it to be treated as confidential. Please indicate your preference:**  
My submission can be made public
- 2. What impact do you think gambling has on the Tasmanian community - the benefits and the costs?**  
Misdirection of money out of the local economy. Unnecessary impact on struggling family sustainability.
- 3. What impact do you think gambling has on other Tasmanian industries and the economy?**  
Gambling is not an industry it is a parasite.
- 4. What's your view on Tasmania's current gambling harm minimisation measures? What further measures do you think should be considered?**  
The so called gambling industry does not take problem gambling seriously. Pokies should be removed from all licensed premises except casino's as a first start.
- 5. What's your view on whether gambling venues adhere to responsible gambling practices?**  
As above.
- 6. What impact did the COVID-19 lockdown have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**  
Best thing ever.
- 7. What impact did the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions on gaming venues have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**  
As above.
- 8. Any other matters you wish to raise or general comments you wish to make?**  
Pokies are a blight on the fabric of society.

## Submissions to the 2020 Social and Economic Impact Study into Gambling in Tasmania

**Name:** Christopher Lueg

- 1. All submissions will be treated as public unless you wish it to be treated as confidential. Please indicate your preference:**  
My submission can be made public
- 2. What impact do you think gambling has on the Tasmanian community - the benefits and the costs?**  
Just terrible. Pokies in particular benefits only very few and are disastrous for many especially for problem gamblers, their families, their friends, their co-workers, and the shops they no longer visit. And it's terrible for the political culture in Tasmania given that Big Gambling is allowed to fund election campaigns. We wouldn't accept that from Big Pharma or Big Tobacco would we.
- 3. What impact do you think gambling has on other Tasmanian industries and the economy?**  
The financial reward for hotels is by all means moderate (coin lost on the pokies is not spent on food or drinks) however the effect on local businesses is terrible because millions are sucked out of the communities where the money would help create and maintain jobs. Instead the money is funnelled to well-resourced interstate companies.
- 4. What's your view on Tasmania's current gambling harm minimisation measures? What further measures do you think should be considered?**  
Tokenism. No surprise there when we allow Big Gambling to fund election campaigns.
- 5. What's your view on whether gambling venues adhere to responsible gambling practices?**  
Too many examples where they breach the code. Pokies should be banned from hotels and if absolutely necessary they should exist only in places like casinos.
- 6. What impact did the COVID-19 lockdown have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**  
n/a
- 7. What impact did the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions on gaming venues have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**  
n/a
- 8. Any other matters you wish to raise or general comments you wish to make?**  
Excellent work Meg.

## Submissions to the 2020 Social and Economic Impact Study into Gambling in Tasmania

Name: Sally Davis

- 1. All submissions will be treated as public unless you wish it to be treated as confidential. Please indicate your preference:**  
My submission can be made public
- 2. What impact do you think gambling has on the Tasmanian community - the benefits and the costs?**  
It was great to see that no one could go. The Casino. I hate that place and what do. The Farrells do for Tasmania.
- 3. What impact do you think gambling has on other Tasmanian industries and the economy?**  
Makes poor people lose their money
- 4. What's your view on Tasmania's current gambling harm minimisation measures? What further measures do you think should be considered?**  
Don't know
- 5. What's your view on whether gambling venues adhere to responsible gambling practices?**  
Not sure never go to the awful places
- 6. What impact did the COVID-19 lockdown have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**  
Gave them more to spend. I hope they stopped going there and not losing their money
- 7. What impact did the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions on gaming venues have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**  
More money for the Farrells.
- 8. Any other matters you wish to raise or general comments you wish to make?**  
Said it all

## Submissions to the 2020 Social and Economic Impact Study into Gambling in Tasmania

**Name:** Terence Ponting

- 1. All submissions will be treated as public unless you wish it to be treated as confidential. Please indicate your preference:**

My submission can be made public

- 2. What impact do you think gambling has on the Tasmanian community - the benefits and the costs?**

There are no real benefits to the Tasmanian community from gambling, there are only negatives. Sure an individual may have a big win and feel good but for ever winner there are many many losers who basically game their money to a winner. It is basically robbing the poor to give to the rich as the only ones who really win are the owners of casinos and poker machines. Everyone else as a whole community loses no matter how you try and sell it. The problems that arise for taking money away from people in the community are a cost that is not measurable, lives are ruined, lives are lost and the flow on effect take a toll on community across the state.

- 3. What impact do you think gambling has on other Tasmanian industries and the economy?**

In short it takes money away from them, casinos and poker machines are like a money vacuum cleaner just sucking up money out of the economy and not allowing it to be spent on other thing like goods and services. With less money going into goods and services businesses and industries suffer.

- 4. What's your view on Tasmania's current gambling harm minimisation measures? What further measures do you think should be considered?**

Terrible, it is like having candy on every corner and telling kids you should not to take any but you are free to do so if you choose.

The full removal of all poker machines from all venues in the state apart from at a casino. They serve no purpose but to rob the people while giving false dreams of winning.

- 5. What's your view on whether gambling venues adhere to responsible gambling practices?**

They don't really, let's be honest. There is no responsible gambling practices, as gambling is not something a responsible person does unless they are rich and have lots of money they can waste.

The full removal of all poker machines from all venues.

- 6. What impact did the COVID-19 lockdown have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**

Little to none.

- 7. What impact did the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions on gaming venues have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**

Little to none.

- 8. Any other matters you wish to raise or general comments you wish to make?**

The State should ban all poker machines from all venues apart from at a casino.

## Submissions to the 2020 Social and Economic Impact Study into Gambling in Tasmania

**Name:** Jane Rankin-Reid

1. **All submissions will be treated as public unless you wish it to be treated as confidential. Please indicate your preference:**  
My submission can be made public
2. **What impact do you think gambling has on the Tasmanian community - the benefits and the costs?**  
I believe the benefits of poker machine gambling is radically overstated in Tasmania. The politically manipulated fear of job losses in the hospitality industry is parasitically ignorant. Some, like former premier David Bartlett have gone so far as to claim tourism will be affected if we limit gaming in Tasmania. Such a statement is the sound of a dull partisan mind throwing the entire population under a bus.
3. **What impact do you think gambling has on other Tasmanian industries and the economy?**  
I think poker machines suck much needed cash out of communities which have been targeted as 'productive' sites for gambling profits. The subsidised steaks and low cost alcohol are further lures. Federal Hotels has no more credibility or social equity than
4. **What's your view on Tasmania's current gambling harm minimisation measures? What further measures do you think should be considered?**  
The harm minimisation measures are not working. I am not an expert, but gambling addictions are as hard to treat as heroin. I believe that were state gaming controllers to demand full transparency and disclosure from gaming machine manufacturers, treating gambling addicts would be a great deal more successful. Until then, it's going to be like shooting fish in a barrel with a lot of people getting dragged under as collateral damage.
5. **What's your view on whether gambling venues adhere to responsible gambling practices?**  
I cannot see how pubs can adhere to responsible gambling practices, mainly because it is not in their interests to do so. No one has been fined for breaking the law yet.
6. **What impact did the COVID-19 lockdown have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**  
I understand that the lock down meant that many Tasmanian families of problem gamblers finally had enough to eat. This should be all that needs to be said to point out the moral blackmail gambling sets up in our society.
7. **What impact did the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions on gaming venues have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**  
Apparently, their profits grew fairly swiftly.
8. **Any other matters you wish to raise or general comments you wish to make?**  
I want the state government of Tasmania to take a proper hard look at TMAG, one of the most valuable resources in the state remains utterly neglected and lagging badly. I get the suffocation of imagination that occurs in the typical Tasmanian committee of culture. But it's not good enough in today's world. Ring me if you want a proper briefing. I am also vigorously concerned about the lack of local scrutiny of for profit aged care residences. Again, ring me if you want a briefing. Make your voice heard please.

## Submissions to the 2020 Social and Economic Impact Study into Gambling in Tasmania

**Name:** Richard Charles Humphrey

- 1. All submissions will be treated as public unless you wish it to be treated as confidential. Please indicate your preference:**  
My submission can be made public
- 2. What impact do you think gambling has on the Tasmanian community - the benefits and the costs?**  
Whilst there is some income for the owners of the establishments there is a huge financial and social cost to the community in money, hours, and in many cases the profits going out of the state.
- 3. What impact do you think gambling has on other Tasmanian industries and the economy?**  
By reducing disposable income, sometimes obliterating all income, it reduces the amount that can be spent in more productive ways which will produce more jobs.
- 4. What's your view on Tasmania's current gambling harm minimisation measures? What further measures do you think should be considered?**  
Bet limits on polies as well as time limits should be introduced and enforced. Lower spin speeds should be considered. Pokies should not be disproportionally place in lower socio economic neighbourhoods.
- 5. What's your view on whether gambling venues adhere to responsible gambling practices?**  
Anecdotally they could be doing a better job. Problem gamblers should be identified and managed so as to limit the harm.
- 6. What impact did the COVID-19 lockdown have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**  
Not applicable.
- 7. What impact did the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions on gaming venues have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**  
Didn't impact me particularly but the evidence is that there has been a huge increase in the money lost since restrictions were lifted.
- 8. Any other matters you wish to raise or general comments you wish to make?**  
For the many caught in the grip of this addiction we should be as a community should be working to break the cycle and give them true hope.

## Submissions to the 2020 Social and Economic Impact Study into Gambling in Tasmania

**Name:** Rosie Severs

1. **All submissions will be treated as public unless you wish it to be treated as confidential. Please indicate your preference:**  
My submission can be made public
2. **What impact do you think gambling has on the Tasmanian community - the benefits and the costs?**  
Gambling causes problems both within the home and in the wider community. Newspapers often tell of court cases re theft of money and goods caused by those who are addicted to gambling this is especially true for Pokies which are so easy to access in the general community.
3. **What impact do you think gambling has on other Tasmanian industries and the economy?**  
I am sure that money spent gambled through Pokies would be better spent in shops cafes and retail stores that keep people employed.
4. **What's your view on Tasmania's current gambling harm minimisation measures? What further measures do you think should be considered?**  
I don't think our current harm minimisation works based on stories I've heard. The best way to stop gambling is to reduce the numbers of machines, reduce spin costs to maximum \$1 and slow the machines down.
5. **What's your view on whether gambling venues adhere to responsible gambling practices?**  
How would I know about how venues are adhering to responsible gambling practices as I've never heard of any owner or licensee being fined or losing their licence to have gaming machines on the premises. Maybe an independent body checking on those with gambling facilities should be in place to provide details of venues that are doing the wrong thing.
6. **What impact did the COVID-19 lockdown have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**  
No impact i have no friends or relatives that gamble but then they are well educated people.
7. **What impact did the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions on gaming venues have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**  
See above
8. **Any other matters you wish to raise or general comments you wish to make?**

## Submissions to the 2020 Social and Economic Impact Study into Gambling in Tasmania

Name: Michelle Folder

1. **All submissions will be treated as public unless you wish it to be treated as confidential. Please indicate your preference:**  
My submission can be made public
2. **What impact do you think gambling has on the Tasmanian community - the benefits and the costs?**  
As with a lot of things 'a little' can be ok, however problem gambling is causing significant negative impact to the Tasmanian community. Pokies particularly cause significant harm to many of Tasmania's most vulnerable. The machines are programmed for the player to keep playing.  
I have spoken to a number of people who have had gambling addictions and they have all said that having pokies so readily accessible has made it incredibly difficult to overcome their addiction. Particularly when the pub in their local area has pokies meaning they can't access that pub (which is often where their family and friends gather to socialise).
3. **What impact do you think gambling has on other Tasmanian industries and the economy?**  
The negative impact of pokies can only do harm to the Tasmanian economy and industries. When people have addictions to gambling (particularly pokies) they generally have significant issues around money (often living in poverty) which can cost in terms of Government benefits, provision of support services etc etc. This is not only true for the gambler themselves but for their family as well.
4. **What's your view on Tasmania's current gambling harm minimisation measures? What further measures do you think should be considered?**  
I believe pokies should be completely removed from Tasmania
5. **What's your view on whether gambling venues adhere to responsible gambling practices?**  
I'm not sure how any gambling venue can adhere to responsible practice if they allow pokie machines on their premises. These machine have been found time and again to be programmed to get players to keep playing and to loose far more than they win.
6. **What impact did the COVID-19 lockdown have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**  
I believe that pokie use reduced significantly due to COVID-19 restrictions (and the sky didn't fall!!!)
7. **What impact did the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions on gaming venues have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**  
I believe that the pokie revenue has increased significantly
8. **Any other matters you wish to raise or general comments you wish to make?**

## Submissions to the 2020 Social and Economic Impact Study into Gambling in Tasmania

**Name:** Stephanie Kirkman Meikle

1. **All submissions will be treated as public unless you wish it to be treated as confidential. Please indicate your preference:**  
My submission can be made public
2. **What impact do you think gambling has on the Tasmanian community - the benefits and the costs?**  
From my position, working in the Social Care Sector, I see the extremely damaging effects which gambling has on the Tasmanian Community. I see the end result of gambling addiction, which is homelessness. I hear first-hand from homeless men who have lost their job and home and put themselves into debt through addiction to gambling, and in particular through addiction to Pokies gambling.
3. **What impact do you think gambling has on other Tasmanian industries and the economy?**  
There is no benefit to our society in having an industry which preys on the weak and vulnerable and leaves the state to pick up the bill for trying to rehabilitate those members of our community who have lost everything. It makes no sense to continue to allow an industry to thrive, at the cost of the wider community. Money spent on gambling, is money lost to the wider economy. People rack up debts, get evicted from their property and are forced into homelessness and family break-up.
4. **What's your view on Tasmania's current gambling harm minimisation measures? What further measures do you think should be considered?**  
Harm minimisation measures rely on staff employed by pubs and clubs to police the scheme, at the same time as being busy serving drinks and attending to customers. It is not in the interest of individual licence holders to exclude their most lucrative customers. It is difficult for the staff to recognise individuals who are restricted from entry. It is a haphazard system, open to failure for these reasons.
5. **What's your view on whether gambling venues adhere to responsible gambling practices?**  
Responsible gambling practice is something of an oxymoron. To gamble is to recklessly pay out money with slim chance of a return. If it were possible to have a responsible venue, surely it would involve limiting the time a person could spend in such a venue to say, 15 minutes per day or 1/2 hour per week: long enough to have spent an 'affordable' amount of money.  
The venues would have clocks prominently displayed, to enable people to keep track of time passing and large windows, which enable people to see out. Windowless gambling rooms keep people closeted away from reality, with the addictive lights, images and sounds of poker machines, designed to ensnare the senses of the gambler. Machines should be silent and should not have flashing lights. They should be restricted to accepting only small change, less than a dollar. There should be no large prize pools to reduce the incentive to gamble recklessly.
6. **What impact did the COVID-19 lockdown have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**  
While gambling rooms were closed, there was reduced opportunity to gamble. The homeless men with whom I have contact had money to spend on buying goods and food. They enjoyed this and there were less pressures on them because they had sufficient money.
7. **What impact did the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions on gaming venues have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**  
Unknown at this point.
8. **Any other matters you wish to raise or general comments you wish to make?**

## Submissions to the 2020 Social and Economic Impact Study into Gambling in Tasmania

Name: Edward Burns

- 1. All submissions will be treated as public unless you wish it to be treated as confidential. Please indicate your preference:**  
My submission can be made public
- 2. What impact do you think gambling has on the Tasmanian community - the benefits and the costs?**  
There are no benefits, and the increase during COVID of online gambling is just another sign of desperation of people who have lost their jobs, albeit temporarily, making attempts to survive. Unfortunately, in lots of cases this will become a normal practice for people who cannot afford to gamble with damage to families, the general economy and an increase in suicides.
- 3. What impact do you think gambling has on other Tasmanian industries and the economy?**  
The impact is obvious, more money gambled, less money for essentials. For the very few winners are far outweighed by the majority losers - the house always wins.
- 4. What's your view on Tasmania's current gambling harm minimisation measures? What further measures do you think should be considered?**  
Lip service because a very profitable percentage goes to the government
- 5. What's your view on whether gambling venues adhere to responsible gambling practices?**  
Minimal protection for problem gamblers and very few ways to protect them and their families. It's like a man on the Westgate Bridge - I didn't make him jump, I just gave him the ladder.
- 6. What impact did the COVID-19 lockdown have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**  
Nil
- 7. What impact did the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions on gaming venues have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**  
Unknown - you never know until it is too late
- 8. Any other matters you wish to raise or general comments you wish to make?**  
Bite the bullet and do something.

## Submissions to the 2020 Social and Economic Impact Study into Gambling in Tasmania

**Name:** Craig Anthony Cowburn

1. **All submissions will be treated as public unless you wish it to be treated as confidential. Please indicate your preference:**  
My submission can be made public
2. **What impact do you think gambling has on the Tasmanian community - the benefits and the costs?**
3. **What impact do you think gambling has on other Tasmanian industries and the economy?**
4. **What's your view on Tasmania's current gambling harm minimisation measures? What further measures do you think should be considered?**
5. **What's your view on whether gambling venues adhere to responsible gambling practices?**
6. **What impact did the COVID-19 lockdown have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**
7. **What impact did the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions on gaming venues have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**
8. **Any other matters you wish to raise or general comments you wish to make?**  
Loaded survey questions to get a negative response to gambling. You forget the once a year social gambler. I had to leave an establishment to withdraw finances as the venue had the pathetic restrictions. You impact on the many for the problems of the minority.

## Submissions to the 2020 Social and Economic Impact Study into Gambling in Tasmania

**Name:** Marja Harris

1. **All submissions will be treated as public unless you wish it to be treated as confidential. Please indicate your preference:**  
My submission can be made public
2. **What impact do you think gambling has on the Tasmanian community - the benefits and the costs?**  
Gambling benefits a very few industries and damages many families. We know that addicted people get sucked in very quickly and before they know it, have lost thousands. During the pandemic, when pubs and casinos were closed, many families breathed a sigh of relief, and had money to spend on essentials. As soon as the venues were open again, millions of dollars were sucked down the gambling drain. How can this possibly benefit the people of Tasmania?
3. **What impact do you think gambling has on other Tasmanian industries and the economy?**  
When there is a vortex sucking money out of the general economy, all other businesses suffer, as does the general economy.
4. **What's your view on Tasmania's current gambling harm minimisation measures? What further measures do you think should be considered?**  
It is insufficient. Gambling machines should be confined to gambling establishments...that is, the casino only!
5. **What's your view on whether gambling venues adhere to responsible gambling practices?**  
We have heard evidence from employees in the gaming rooms, that they are not supposed to disturb the gamers....even to the extent that the gamers wet themselves, rather than leave their machine. Outrageous.
6. **What impact did the COVID-19 lockdown have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**
7. **What impact did the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions on gaming venues have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**
8. **Any other matters you wish to raise or general comments you wish to make?**  
WA hotels are able to thrive without relying on gambling income. It is possible: there just needs to be a willingness for the government to withstand the pressure from the gambling industry.

## Submissions to the 2020 Social and Economic Impact Study into Gambling in Tasmania

**Name:** Peter McBain

- 1. All submissions will be treated as public unless you wish it to be treated as confidential. Please indicate your preference:**  
My submission can be made public
- 2. What impact do you think gambling has on the Tasmanian community - the benefits and the costs?**  
Income for Government to spend on other things to the cost of financial hardship on lower income families.
- 3. What impact do you think gambling has on other Tasmanian industries and the economy?**  
Money spent on gambling is not spent on food , and clothing.
- 4. What's your view on Tasmania's current gambling harm minimisation measures? What further measures do you think should be considered?**  
Poker machines are the main offenders and need to be confined to the 2 casinos . Those venues such as the pubs and clubs should be given tax breaks to offset the current income from poker machines.
- 5. What's your view on whether gambling venues adhere to responsible gambling practices?**  
Addiction to poker machines can only be cured by removing easy availability.
- 6. What impact did the COVID-19 lockdown have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**  
Kept me away.
- 7. What impact did the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions on gaming venues have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**  
Back to usual spent.
- 8. Any other matters you wish to raise or general comments you wish to make?**  
I tend to find that a bet on keno or a race horse is not addictive but poker machines seem to get most people to spend more than intended.

## Submissions to the 2020 Social and Economic Impact Study into Gambling in Tasmania

**Name:** John Mulcahy

1. **All submissions will be treated as public unless you wish it to be treated as confidential. Please indicate your preference:**  
My submission can be made public
2. **What impact do you think gambling has on the Tasmanian community - the benefits and the costs?**  
No benefits on pokies they suck you in thinking you will win big
3. **What impact do you think gambling has on other Tasmanian industries and the economy?**  
Well heaps money that would be put into the community goes into the machines
4. **What's your view on Tasmania's current gambling harm minimisation measures? What further measures do you think should be considered?**  
Pathetic the government has been given all the figures and now record money going into machines, and nothing has been done I think is disgusting
5. **What's your view on whether gambling venues adhere to responsible gambling practices?**  
The pokies in Glenorchy use to be kept open but the bar had closed, I don't visit oasis hotels as I think and know that they know where the source of money comes from the addicted
6. **What impact did the COVID-19 lockdown have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**  
None I don't play them now
7. **What impact did the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions on gaming venues have on the gambling participation of either yourself or friends/family/work colleagues?**  
Was a positive of COVID if there is a positive
8. **Any other matters you wish to raise or general comments you wish to make?**  
Pokies nearly ruined my life I hit rock bottom but have fought back my life is so much better now