



Gambling Machines

Policy Statement

We recognise that gambling machines introduced in Hotels and Clubs would increase their viability.

Revenue to governments would also increase and even the odd job would be created.

The downside in allowing gambling machines at those facilities unfortunately outweighs any benefits.

Research shows that gambling attracts many people who least can afford it.

Experiences from other States show the ramifications of widespread gambling. The subsequent social impact on families and society at a whole (domestic violence, family break-downs, and undesirable industries eg: loan sharking, break-ins, prostitution etc.)

This in turn places extra burden and considerable costs to already stretched government departments and charities.

Policy

No “one-arm bandits” will be permitted.

Gaming machines in Western Australia will be restricted to the Burswood Casino.
(No gaming machines are to be allowed in Hotels and Clubs).

Background Briefing

Gambling Expenditure

Gambling expenditure in Australia has increased from \$ 9 Billion in 1994 to \$ 16.21 Billion by 2004. Club and Hotel gaming machines with 58.9% recorded the fastest growing figures.

Casinos account for 16.6%.

Racing accounts for 12.55.

Lotteries account for 9.9%.

Sports betting and others make up the final 2.1%.

Household expenditure

Household expenditure in Australia has increased even faster by around 5.8% annually since 1979.

This increase has been greater than the increase in disposable income in the same period. This is equivalent to \$1066.95 being spent by every adult annually.

The Northern Territory has the highest figures with 4.8% of disposable income spent on gambling.

Western Australia has the lowest rate of 1.43% or \$ 493.10.

A breakdown of WA figures show:
Burswood Casino 39.31%
Lotteries 30.48%
Racing 26.60%
Other forms of betting 3.61%.

Government revenue in WA amounts to:

\$ 196 Million from Gaming
\$ 51.5 Million from Racing
\$ 355,000 from sports betting.
A total figure of \$ 247,855 million.

Victoria is a case in point.

In 1994 it had the lowest figure for gambling with 1.92%.
After the expansion of its largest casino and the introduction of gaming machines in Hotels and Clubs, the figure rose to 3.15%.

Gambling odds

Powerball 54,979,155 to 1
Oz Lotto 8,145,060 to 1
Lotto 7,059,052 to 1

Statistics

72% of people gamble at least occasionally.
Males are more likely to gamble than females.
Adult problem gamblers often report starting before the age of 19.
Young problem gamblers are more likely to have family members with a gambling problem.
Around 3000 people under the age of 18 are caught every month trying to enter the Crown Casino in Melbourne.

Acknowledgement:

All figures quoted are from publications from the Centre for Gambling Research ANU and the Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies.

<http://sociology.cass.anu.edu.au/centre-gambling-research>

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