

From:
Date: Tue, May 12, 2015 at 6:03 PM
Subject: Re: Reforming Canberra clubs
To:



A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE	
SUBMISSION NUMBER	63
DATE AUTH'D FOR PUBLICATION	15.5.15

I read the terms of reference and would have like to comment under 1 d (v) **Problem Gambling.**

The number of poker machines need to be reduced, and not just an adjustment to the ratio of available machines to the increasing population.

This is not a public service like increasing the number of disability parking spaces or teacher/ student ratios.

I strongly believe that any community service these clubs provide (small change to sporting clubs...), is vastly out-weighed by the damage gambling does to our community, families and marriages.

The research is there, the statistics on problem gambling are there and the fact that these clubs rely on exploiting the vulnerable in order to sustain their business model, would indicate we would be better off **without any** poker machines at all.

Clubs understand the science of addiction and use psychologists to fine tune the timing of 'rewards' (payouts) to keep gamblers engaged in the process. Their profits do not come from the social or occasional poker machine users, they come from the addicts who sit there for many, many hours, away from their children and families. Some of them end up committing suicide.

The easy availability of cash is just another insidious method by which clubs keep their 'clients' close to the action.

Thelma Winroe