

Julie Thompson

From: Michael Ness <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, 4 November 2016 11:50 AM
To: fgm
Subject: Submission to the Joint Select Committee on Future Gaming Markets

Dear Members of the Committee, We are disappointed to hear that Glenorchy's notorious "pokies golden mile" could grow, with a new pub applying to operate a further 20 gaming machines in our community which already has Tasmania's highest losses. There are currently 270 poker machines within the municipality and in July, poker machine expenditure in Glenorchy hit \$2 million. We wonder why the Government is incapable of asking themselves where this sort of money comes from?

Research shows that 40 per cent of the money lost on poker machines is lost by problem gamblers which accounts for nearly \$1 million lost in Glenorchy by people who can't afford such losses. Some of these people loose so much on the pokies that they or their kids go hungry, and they find themselves unable to pay their Water or Electricity bills and face having their power cut off. Many of these people become subject to increasing mental illness and some have been known to take their own lives.

Steven Thomson, of the Moonah-Glenorchy Business Association, said the pokies were reducing trade and leading to unemployment due to the millions of dollars lost through poker machines in our community which is hurting traders "Businesses in this area have been impacted – pokies take a horrendous amount of money out of the community," he said.

It is also well known that many problem gamblers admit that they need to resort to crime to maintain their addiction to feed these machines, making fear of crime a greater reality of daily life in this community. The new venue is in the heart of Glenorchy right next to the NorthGate Shopping Centre where many businesses are already feeling the impact of crime from desperate problem gamblers, and right next to the bus exchange where many people come to Glenorchy looking for fun or trouble from low social class areas like Gagebrook, Bridgewater and also south from Moonah

In conclusion we would like to strongly disapprove of more poker machines in Glenorchy, especially in this venue.

Many thanks for your consideration

Yours sincerely, Michael Ness

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Please reply to Michael Ness at _____

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