

Julie Thompson

From: David Lewis <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Saturday, 5 November 2016 11:57 AM
To: fgm
Subject: Submission to the Joint Select Committee on Future Gaming Markets

Dear Members of the Committee, I have long held the view that governments which support the use of poker machines by members of the public are morally corrupt, that to gain revenue from the suffering of others is a disgrace. I know a man who is addicted to playing the "pokies" – every pay day he is pulled by an invisible force to the Launceston Casino where, in a trancelike state he pushes money into a poker machine until there is none left. In the early hours of the morning he then walks 12 kilometres to where he lives – during this long walk he is filled with feelings of self hatred, disgust, helplessness, and thinks about killing himself. He is past believing that it won't happen again because the same pattern has been going on for many years. I know there are many poker machine users who are not at this extreme, they could be called "functional gamblers" but I see that these people have a dependency on this habit and that any such dependency has a negative impact on a person's life, often on the quality of family relationships as well as on the gambler's own sense of wellbeing, and on their personal and spiritual growth. In my view governments have a responsibility to protect those who are vulnerable in our community and to have laws which encourage people to behave in ways that are decent, supportive of strong community bonds and ethically sound. What sort of modelling is this "pokie" behaviour for the children of gamblers? What sort of modelling is the behaviour of governments which allows this to happen and which draw significant revenue from such abuse of our citizens. I find the whole process very sad.

Yours sincerely, David Lewis

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Please reply to David Lewis at david1514@icloud.com.

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