

From: Andrew Grosse <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 November 2016 4:07 PM
To: fgm
Subject: Submission to the Joint Select Committee on Future Gaming Markets

Dear Members of the Committee,

“Gaming”, aka Gambling, is a socially destructive behaviour that allows a few unscrupulous but mathematically talented individuals to profit at the expense of others. Gambling addicts (yes, it's a real thing) tend to spend increasing amounts of money trying to **win back what they have lost**, thereby escalating their losses. This causes direct and measurable harm to the community, resulting in many forms of social harm including child neglect and abuse, family violence, fraud, alcoholism and other drug addictions. This is in addition to the poverty that results from pouring scant income into poker machines. As Tasmanians have a lower average income than most Australians, this has a disproportionately large effect.

I have no love of gambling, in any form – poker machines, horse or dog racing, two-up, sports betting, whatever – and strongly oppose their placement in the Tasmanian community. There are better ways for pubs and clubs to improve their revenue than to rely on gambling addicts. Reasonable estimates show that greater than one in three gamblers have a serious problem with their gambling, and these “pubs and clubs” shoulder NO responsibility toward the victims – which usually include the immediate family of the gambler. These for-profit facilities can do better by their communities than present them with faceless gambling machines.

Furthermore, the special treatment meted out to the Federal group for their monstrous Casino businesses needs to end. These are the primary face of gambling to the public, and there is more than just the appearance of impropriety in this arrangement. They should have no special deals, and have to face the licensing in the same way that any other pub or club must. There is scope to transform their giant Gambling facilities into places that actually provide a public benefit, and enrich the lives of visitors. But currently it is used as a lure to suck the unwitting and unwise into their dens of gambling, where only the naive think they can make a profit. As such, It is in the interests of all Tasmanians to have these facilities more frequently audited, and that strong regulations are kept in place and enforced to help minimise the harm to society by the exploitation of the poor by the rich. Indeed, there is a strong argument that legal, organised gambling should be totally outla

wed, as it enriches a few by causing great harm of many.

In summary;

- I do not support the presence of Gambling (neither slot machines or any other form) in Tasmanian Pubs and Clubs. Slot machines should not be allowed to operate in Tasmania.
- I do not support the special treatment being given to the Federal Group (Owners of Wrest Point) in this respect.
- Government reliance on the income from gambling is offensive, self-destructive, and an abrogation of the responsibilities of government. You're supposed to support and help the people, not help a select few rich friends exploit the populace for profit.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Andrew Grosse

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Please reply to Andrew Grosse at a_grosse@utas.edu.au.

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