



7 December 2016

The Secretary, Joint Select Committee on Future Gaming Markets
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Hobart 7000
Phone: 6212 2250
Email: fgm@parliament.tas.gov.au

RE: Submission to the Joint Select Committee on Future Gaming Markets

A Fairer World is a social justice hub that encourages schools, workplaces and the Tasmanian community to learn, connect and act together for positive social change that strengthens social justice and supports human rights. Our services include innovative education programs, training, mentoring, resources, and access to support networks.

As part of our work we interact with hundreds of Tasmanian children and their families through schools, workplaces and community organisations. Our experience in the community and our strong advocacy for social justice leads us to submit that poker machines have no place in local venues. We find that children and young people in Tasmania face challenges such as family situations where finances are severely constrained with direct impacts on their education and quality of life. In our disadvantaged communities where poker machines are concentrated, it is commonly understood by community members that the lure of poker machines exacerbates already poor financial situations and stress in local families. A close corollary of these poor and addictive financial choices is increased social isolation and attendant mental/emotional depression and relationships breakdown. How very *unfair* that poker machines, more than higher-end games of chance, return higher odds to "the house" in a setting where there is very little oversight (e.g. by a croupier or supervisor) or objective restraint of the players.

We also support the development of active citizenship: our vision is of Tasmanians to learn, connect and act together for positive social change. Studies demonstrate though, that gambling and its attendant attitudes of shame, deceit and anger, break down community, family and all forms of positive social participation. Inevitably, this brings a higher personal and family dependence on government and community sector services for economic relief, attempted rehabilitation and in some cases institutional care (penal or mental health).

Economic inequality is a driving cause of social injustice and community division. Studies bear out that in budget, as well as socio-economic terms, Tasmania would gain significantly from restriction of poker machines and keno to licensed casinos, with the additional 'disposable income' resulting from such change circulating within local communities, acting as a positive/active stimulus. Tasmania could lead the country through significantly reducing community harm and injustice by removing poker machines from pubs and clubs.

We urge the Tasmanian Parliament to demonstrate such social insight to protect our children.

Yours sincerely

Robin Bowden
Committee member

Greg Sawyer
President

On behalf of the Management Committee

From: A Fairer World <admin@afairerworld.org>
Sent: Wednesday, 7 December 2016 1:27 PM
To: fgm
Subject: Submission to the Joint Select Committee on Future Gaming Markets
Attachments: A Fairer World Submission 7-12-2016.pdf

Good afternoon

Please find attached a submission to the Joint Select Committee on Future Gaming Markets.

Regards

Helen Hurtle

**Coordinator | A Fairer World | 4 Battery Square, Battery Point, TAS, 7004 | [Facebook](#)
helen@afairerworld.org | www.afairerworld.org | Ph: 03 6223 1025 or 0400 824 261**

Creating schools and communities where everyone can reach their full potential

A Fairer World is a social justice hub comprising the Tasmanian Centre for Global Learning, the Global Learning Resource Library and www.afairerworld.org.

Finalist 2014 Community Group of the Year (Regional Achievement & Community Awards)

Hobart City Council 2012 Australia Day Community Event of the Year

2011 Tasmanian Human Rights Community Organisation Award

Find out about our diversity education programs: the Hobart Human Library, Let's Get Together and Living in Between