

**Julie Thompson**

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**From:** John Biggs <campaigns@good.do>  
**Sent:** Saturday, 5 November 2016 10:38 AM  
**To:** fgm  
**Subject:** Submission to the Joint Select Committee on Future Gaming Markets

Dear Members of the Committee,

Poker machine addiction has got to the point where it is doing much harm socially and economically. The machines are designed so that overall they will win; they are also designed with flashing lights and sounds and odd payouts deliberately to addict people. This is a toxic combination that destroys lives and communities. 40 percent of players are so addicted.

Economically, governments lose too. Of course they get their revenues but addicted gamblers lose their jobs, are a drain on the community by needing professional help, they are likely to turn to crime to finance their addiction, families are destroyed and suffer much misery if one member is hooked on playing the pokies. And it is the disadvantaged in the community who suffer the most.

Poker machines should be capped to \$1 or at least have a precommitment device to mitigate the harm. When the machines were mechanical it was physically difficult to loose huge amounts but now they are electronic they are programmed to grab tens of thousands off people in one night.

Yours sincerely, John Biggs

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Please reply to John Biggs at [jbiggs@bigpond.com](mailto:jbiggs@bigpond.com).

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