

Julie Thompson

From: Roz Pearson <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Thursday, 3 November 2016 6:55 PM
To: fgm
Subject: Submission to the Joint Select Committee on Future Gaming Markets

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing this submission out of my concern for the proliferation of poker machines throughout Tasmania. I came to Tasmania from WA 13 years ago. In WA poker machines can only be found at the Casino and so I was shocked to find them in just about every hotel in Tasmania. If you watched the Four Corners program on the topic of poker machines you would have seen experts, designers of the machines talking about how addictive and unfair they are. They are designed to hook people in and flush them of every last cent. There is no winning with poker machines they are a con job and they are the cause of so much grief, crime and poverty. Indeed it seems that the most impoverished are drawn to them with the vain hope of making extra cash. Alas this is impossible. I have just moved into the Glenorchy district and I understand that several million dollars is lost by Glenorchy citizens each year. This is not a wealthy suburb so one wonders how this loss impacts on families.

As a teacher I witness daily children coming to school with no food, without having had breakfast and dress in rags and shoes that don't fit. I often wonder how many of these children's parents are caught in the poker machine trap. I would like to see poker machines less available to the community that I live in which would mean taking them out of pubs and clubs and I would also like to ensure that the poker machines in the casinos are properly regulated to be safe and fair. Limits should be put on how much can be put into each machine at any time and there should not be incentives given to encourage people to gamble such as free meals etc. Poker machines are a scourge in our society and they cost too many Tasmanians their health, relationships, jobs and homes. One in three Tasmanians knows someone seriously harmed by gambling on poker machines and four out of five Tasmanians want poker machines reduced in number or totally removed from pubs and clubs. As a musician I know that the introduction of poker machines in these venues lead to a huge reduction in live music and thus hugely impacted upon the livelihoods of many musicians.

Yours sincerely, Roz Pearson

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Please reply to Roz Pearson at rozjoyp@hotmail.com.

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