

RECEIVED

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16th Oct 2016.

Dear Sirs,

Tasmanians have a gambling problem.
We don't need more poker machines.

People already spend a lot of money
on gambling, just look at the Melbourne
bup.

We are inundated with television
advertising about gambling/betting on sports.

yours faithfully.

(Mrs) Chris Broome

OPINION

aminer.com.au/opinion/

EDITORIAL

reaking the cycle of problem gambling



TWENTY new poker machines in a region the size of Glenorchy may not sound a lot.

But when you consider the potential negative impact those extra machines will have, that impact is potentially immense.

In a new report, Anglicare has released a map that shows the impact of poker machines in various regions of the state.

Glenorchy already has some 270 machines, the new additions will take that closer to around 300.

According to Anglicare, each one of those poker machines reaps close to \$74,500 from the community.

In a statement released to the media yesterday, the Country Women's Association of Tasmania came out strongly against the introduction of the new machines in the

region. To come out so publicly to the media is extremely rare for the CWA. The group obviously has some major concerns.

Problem gambling is a scourge on our society. It rips money away from people, from families that are already often wavering around or under the poverty line.

What's most interesting is that the more we seem to understand and learn about the impacts of problem gambling on our society, the more avenues that seem to open up to participate in it.

On Thursday, the Senate's Environment and Communications Legislation Committee will hand down a report into its inquiry into online sports betting.

The Interactive Gambling Amendment (Sports Betting Reform) Bill 2015 will look at harm minimisation measures to help people already involved in online sports betting to

better control their gambling. The harsh reality is, the people who are mostly affected by online gambling as our younger adults - those aged 18 to 24.

Expenditure on sports betting has doubled between 2005-06 and 2011-12, according to the Australian Psychological Society.

It is well known that problem gamblers who use the internet are more likely to bet on sports.

The biggest problems relating to sports gambling in Australia is the lack of regulations around what people can spend, and the lack of regulation around exchanging customer information by the various companies and ways to minimise the harm done to young people, who are at particular risk.

Much more needs to be done urgently to address these many troubling issues.

WAINMAN

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