



youth network of Tasmania

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

December 8 2016

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

The Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) is the peak body for the non-government youth sector in Tasmania. YNOT advocates for the needs and initiatives of young people and the youth sector, and aims to increase the participation and contribution of young people in Tasmania.

Young people are exposed to gambling from an early age with the majority of young people in Australia participating in some form of gambling before they turn 18. They grow up seeing gambling promoted at sporting events and accepted as part of Australian life. The exposure of gambling to young people is concerning as young people are pre-supposed to risk taking behaviours due to their developmental stage, and this is frequently noted as a risk factor for problem gambling.

While young people participate in occasional gambling activities such as putting a bet on the Melbourne Cup or footy tipping, up to 5% have a problem with gambling (*Gambling and young people: impacts, challenges and responses*, Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation, 2013).

Although young people are often thought to prefer sports betting and online gambling, poker machines are nevertheless very popular. After turning 18, young people use poker machines at the same or a higher rate as the population at large, often as a social activity. In many communities, opportunities for youth recreation are still limited and poker machine gambling offers relief from boredom and the prospect of winning money.

Once a young person begins to use poker machines regularly, they are at risk of developing problem gambling behaviours and becoming addicted. There is also a strong relationship between gambling addiction with poor mental health and dysfunctional family relationships. Young people generally have fewer financial resources and are therefore likely to find themselves in severe financial difficulties faster.

Another risk factor for problem gambling is growing up with a family member who is a problem gambler. People whose fathers were problem gamblers are more than ten times as likely to become problem gamblers themselves (*Children at risk of developing problem gambling*, Gambling Research Australia, 2010). It is generally agreed that growing up with a gambling addict in the family has much



Suite 40, Mayfair Plaza, 236 Sandy Bay Road, Sandy Bay Tasmania 7005
P 03 6223 5511 F 03 6223 2255 M 0458 235 511
admin@ynot.org.au www.ynot.org.au abn 37 078 758 651

ynot is the peak body representing the voice of Tasmanian youth



Tasmanian youth forum



Tasmanian youth conference

the same effect on children as growing up with an alcohol or drug abuser. This trauma has a significant impact on a young person's later life.

The high prevalence of poker machines in the community is concerning because of the long-term consequences this has for young people, whether they or someone they know has problem gambling behaviours. Removing poker machines in the community would help to reduce problem gambling behaviours, challenge a culture that broadly accepts gambling and have a positive impact for the broader community.

Sincerely,

Joanna Siejka
CEO
Youth Network of Tasmania

Julie Thompson

From: Joanna Siejka <Joanna.Siejka@ynot.org.au>
Sent: Thursday, 8 December 2016 11:45 AM
To: fgm
Subject: Letter to select committee from YNOT
Attachments: Letter - select committe on gaming YNOT dec 2016.pdf

Hello,

Please find attached a letter from YNOT to the Select Committee on Gaming.

Thank you

Joanna Siejka

Chief Executive Officer
Youth Network of Tasmania

Chair
National Youth Coalition for Housing



a: Suite 4a, Mayfair Plaza, 236 Sandy Bay Road, Sandy Bay TAS 7005
t: 6223 5511
m: 0458 235 511
e: ceo@ynot.org.au
w: www.ynot.org.au

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE AND DISCLAIMER

Information in this transmission is intended only for the person(s) to whom it is addressed and may contain privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, any disclosure, copying or dissemination of the information is unauthorised and you should delete/destroy all copies and notify the sender.
No liability is accepted for any unauthorised use of the information contained in this transmission.