

A brief history

Pokies were introduced into Tasmania's casinos in 1986 and into pubs and clubs in 1997, in both cases with no community consultation.

Federal Group currently owns every poker machine in the state. This monopoly license is due to expire in June 2018.

A decision to take pokies out of pubs and clubs can be made this year, and would come into effect in 2023.

How many poker machines are there in Tasmania?

Tasmania has 3,550 poker machines.

1,185 are in the two casinos.

2,365 are in pubs and clubs.

There are also 36 poker machines on the two Spirit of Tasmania vessels.

How are poker machines rigged to win?

Pokies are designed by psychologists and mathematicians to ensure that, over time, the machine always comes out on top.

\$5 can be bet every three seconds.

With each press of the button, the machine keeps about 15 per cent of the bet amount.

On average you can lose \$40 in just four minutes, or \$600 in an hour.

How much money do poker machines take away from Tasmanians?

Each year, poker machines take \$200 million from Tasmanians.

\$110 million of this comes from pokies in pubs and clubs.

40 per cent of the money taken by pokies comes from people who are addicted.

How many people are addicted to poker machines in Tasmania?

One in six people who regularly use poker machines are likely to become addicted.

Polling shows that one in three Tasmanians personally know someone who has a serious problem gambling on pokies.

People won't switch to online gambling if pokies are removed from pubs and clubs.

Research shows that a person with a pokies addiction is unlikely to switch to other kinds of gambling.

There are typical motivations that drive people to begin to use pokies, often related to stress.

Pokies are designed to block everything else out and then trigger a compulsion within the brain to keep playing. These effects and motivations are not the same for online gambling.

Who receives revenue from pokies?

Pubs and clubs with poker machines currently only keep a small portion of the profits made by poker machines.

By far, the largest portion of the profits goes to Federal Group.

Another percentage goes as taxes to the Tasmanian government and the Community Support Levy.

As a state, Tasmania does not rely on taxes from poker machines - they are less than one per cent of our State Budget.

The Tasmanian Treasurer has said publicly that Tasmania can do without taxes from pokies.

Jobs will be created if poker machines are confined to casinos.

Independent economic modelling found removing pokies from pubs and clubs would not only boost the local economy, but also create hundreds of jobs.

This is because the money once spent on pokies will be spent elsewhere in the local economy, creating increased community engagement and greater demand for additional staff.

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