
26/11/2020

Dear Minister,

Every day in NSW pubs and clubs, criminals [launder money](#) through poker machines¹. This is deeply disturbing for many reasons, and that is why I write this open letter to you.

As Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority Chair Philip Crawford [recently noted](#) when discussing money laundering at Crown Casino: *"When we talk about money laundering... we're talking about potential drugs, child sexual exploitation, people trafficking and financing terrorism."*

We know that clubs in NSW do not have adequate structures in place to stop money laundering; whistleblower [Troy Stolz](#) provided evidence of this. Given pub poker machines are used even more intensively than those in clubs, it's hard to imagine pubs have effective anti-money laundering protocols in place.

There is a way to reduce money laundering, which will in turn likely reduce criminality and increase the budget bottom line in NSW -- the answer is the universal cashless gambling card proposed by Minister Victor Dominello.

This card has tremendous benefits, both for removing a notorious method of laundering money in NSW, and in reducing gambling harm. We urge the Cabinet to back it.

The benefits of the universal cashless gambling card are numerous, and include:

- An immediate end to money laundering via poker machines in pubs and clubs
- A backup to current proposed self-exclusion identification checks by venues, as a self-excluded gambler's card would be blocked
- Providing a tool which allows everyone to manage their own gambling spending, and provides alternative pathways for those who need to reduce or stop their gambling.

This cashless gambling card will lead to improved lives for many people in NSW, and likely lives saved. When this improvement to public health is coupled with removing the single easiest way to launder money in NSW, it seems impossible to effectively argue against it.

I urge you and your Cabinet colleagues to support the cashless gambling card, blocking the path of criminals laundering the proceeds of despicable offences such as child pornography, and helping reduce gambling harm at the same time. This is a policy winner.

Yours sincerely,



Rev. Tim Costello AO
Chief Advocate, Alliance for Gambling Reform

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¹ Dr June Buchanan, Macquarie University Lighthouse, *Money Laundering is Big Business in Australia* (Feb 2020)