

Canterbury-Bankstown poker machine losses continue to rise

Losses in clubs and pubs in the Canterbury-Bankstown council area continue to soar, with the LGA holding the dubious honour of the state's highest daily losses - \$1.558million per day, every day of the year.

The average poker machine in a hotel in Canterbury-Bankstown now takes \$254,488 a year in losses, contributing to total weekly losses of \$10.9million. While clubs in the LGA have reduced losses overall and per machine, that has been outweighed by the rapid increase in per machine losses in pubs.

Poker machine numbers in the council area have also increased, and now sit at 5,067, more than double all the pub and club poker machines in all of Tasmania.

The council has a strategic plan to build scores of playgrounds across the area, all of which could be funded by poker machine losses in less than a fortnight.¹

Poker machine losses have risen to more than \$6.5 billion in NSW despite a reduction in total poker machine numbers in the state, equal to \$17.9 million lost every day.

Alliance for Gambling Reform Chief Advocate, Reverend Tim Costello, said poker machines lead to the loss of much more than money in the NSW community.

"Those who gamble are not the only ones harmed. Research shows that impacts include financial and relationship stress, distraction from work and study, physical and mental ill-health, and sadly, sometimes family violence. In extreme cases, poker machines contribute to the loss of lives due to suicide," Rev Costello said.

"Pokies venues are designed to fleece people regardless of socio-economic background or geography, and especially target people who may be feeling isolated or lonely. That's predatory behaviour."

Rev Costello said it was time the NSW Government responded to gambling harm as a public health issue akin to smoking.

"Smoking in bars was once pervasive in NSW, not unlike the scourge that is poker machines," he said. "You couldn't go out without coming home stinking of cigarette smoke. Now we can go out and enjoy ourselves without the effects of passive smoking."

"We call on the NSW Government to step up and ban gambling-related loyalty programs in clubs and pubs across NSW because they encourage harmful behaviour. There's no first mover advantage when there's a pokie den on every corner. It's time to change the model in NSW from propping up the industry to treating gambling as the public health issue it is."

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¹ Item 7.2 maximum funding of \$20.12m, Canterbury-Bankstown Playgrounds and Play Spaces Strategic Plan.

Background data tables:

Figures provided by the Dept. of Liquor and Gaming are for Dec-May/June-November for clubs, and Jan-June/July-Dec for hotels. For convenience, both sets of 6-month figures have been combined by the Alliance as if they cover the financial year or calendar year, as appropriate.

Canterbury Bankstown hotel and club rankings by numbers and profits are highlighted in the list of worst 10 council areas in the state, below.

Canterbury Bankstown – Dept of Liquor and Gaming figures								
FY2018	Net Profit	Tax	daily losses	weekly losses	EGMs @ EOFY	Annual losses per EGM	state rank by profit	state rank by EGM nr
Clubs	\$354m	\$82m	\$0.97m	\$6.8m	4126	\$85,831	2	1
Pubs	\$202m	\$78.6m	\$0.55m	\$3.89m	871	\$232,068	2	4
Total	\$556m	\$161m	\$1.524m	\$10.7m	4997			
FY2019	Net Profit	Tax	daily losses	weekly losses	EGMs @ EOFY	Annual losses per EGM	state rank by profit	state rank by EGM nr
Clubs	\$350m	\$80.8m	\$0.96m	\$6.7m	4179	\$83,877	2	1
Pubs	\$218m	\$85.4m	\$0.6m	\$4.1m	888	\$245,488	2	4
Total	\$569m	\$166m	\$1.557m	\$10.9m	5067			

State wide data

Since the first half of 2017, total EGM numbers have fallen by 1.5%, while total profits have risen 5.46% - each poker machine in NSW is now earning more than 2 years ago, totally wiping out any benefit that might have been achieved by a drop in numbers.

The average poker machine “earn” (=took losses of)

Half year	Club poker machine	Hotel poker machine
first 6 months of 2017	\$27,672.22	\$47,471.13
first 6 months of 2018	\$28,063.04	\$51,578.01
first 6 months of 2019	\$28,261.44	\$54,911.26

In FY2018 total losses were \$6.373billion.

In FY2019 total losses were \$6.536billion, an increase of \$163million, or 2.56%

The weekly losses are now \$125,799,876

Daily losses are \$17,908,070

Based on the NSW state government's 2018/2019 budget documents:

Program	2018/2019 spending	Days of poker machine losses to pay for program
Mental health Infrastructure Program	average yearly spending of \$175m	10 days
Capital expenditure on TAFE	\$179.5m	10 days
Plan to install air conditioning in schools	\$100m per year	5.6 days
New spending on increased admitted and community based mental health services	\$82.5m	4.6 days
New spending to extend the Start Strong program for three-year olds	average yearly cost of \$49.45m	2.8 days
Fee-free apprentice program	yearly cost of \$47.5m	2.6 days
Additional 200 paramedics and 13 call centre staff	\$23.7m	1.5 days
New cardiovascular disease research	\$15m	<1 day
100 new midwives across the state	\$9.3m	0.5 days

THE POKIES PLAY YOU



LGA	Rank by club profit ½ 2019	LGA	Rank by pub profit ½ 2019	LGA	Rank by club profit ½ 2018	LGA	Rank by pub profit ½ 2018
Fairfield	1	Sydney	1	Fairfield	1	Sydney	1
Canterbury-Bankstown	2	Canterbury-Bankstown	2	Canterbury-Bankstown	2	Canterbury-Bankstown	2
Cumberland	3	Cumberland	3	Cumberland	3	Fairfield	3
Central Coast	4	Fairfield	4	Central Coast	4	Cumberland	4
Blacktown	5	Blacktown	5	Blacktown	5	Blacktown	5
Penrith	6	Parramatta	6	Penrith	6	Parramatta	6
Wollongong	7	Georges River	7	Wollongong	7	Inner West	7
Georges River	8	Inner West	8	Georges River	8	Georges River	8
Campbelltown	9	Bayside	9	Campbelltown	9	Bayside	9
Newcastle	10	Burwood/Strathfield	10	Northern Beaches	10	Liverpool	10

THE POKIES PLAY YOU



LGA	Rank by Club EGMs mid 2019	LGA	Rank by Pub EGMs mid 2019	LGA	Rank by Club EGMs mid 2018	LGA	Rank by Pub EGMs mid 2018
Canterbury-Bankstown	1	Sydney	1	Canterbury-Bankstown	1	Sydney	1
Central Coast	2	Inner West	2	Central Coast	2	Inner West	2
Fairfield	3	Newcastle	3	Fairfield	3	Newcastle	3
Wollongong	4	Canterbury-Bankstown	4	Wollongong	4	Canterbury-Bankstown	4
Cumberland	5	Blacktown	5	Cumberland	5	Blacktown	5
Penrith	6	Central Coast	6	Newcastle	6	Central Coast	6
Blacktown	7	Parramatta	7	Blacktown	7	Wollongong	7
Newcastle	8	Wollongong	8	Penrith	8	Parramatta	8
Lake Macquarie	9	Cumberland	9	Lake Macquarie	9	Cumberland	9
Sutherland	10	Fairfield	10	Sutherland	10	Fairfield	10