

THE POKIES PLAY YOU

Victorian Government fails community by entrenching pokies

Friday 7th July 2017

The Alliance for Gambling Reform is deeply disappointed that the Andrews Government has put the pokies industry ahead of people and plans to lock in the next five governments into devastating harm caused by the states 27,372 poker machines

“Issuing 20 year pokie licenses is un-democratic, and condemns another generation to family violence, financial wreckage, family breakdown and emotional trauma caused by the poker machine industry” said Kelvin Thomson, spokesperson for the Alliance for Gambling Reform

“The current ten year licenses are as long as any license to cause harm should ever be. Every MP should ask themselves if they want this to be their legacy,” Mr Thomson said.

The Alliance is disappointed with a range of the specifics in the government proposal including:

The potential introduction of NSW-style chains of clubs by doubling the club cap to 840 poker machines. This could allow AFL clubs to become pokies giant like NRL clubs.

Opening the door for hotels to pick up club entitlements and move above 50% of total machines when the likes of Woolworths pubs have already proven their ability to inflict more harm than clubs

The lack of any detailed commitment to reducing harm.

The failure to reduce state-wide poker machine numbers when the likes of NSW and the ACT are already doing this.

“The Victorian upper house should intervene to ensure substantial changes are made before this long term package is locked in,” Mr Thomson said.

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