

THE POKIES PLAY YOU

Tasmanian Labor pokies phase out sets the standard for other states

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The Alliance for Gambling Reform applauds the announcement by Tasmanian Labor that they will phase out all 2,375 poker machines in pubs and clubs across the state by 2023, if elected to government next March.

“Communities across Tasmania will be able to enjoy their local club and pubs without addictive poker machines lurking inside.” Said Tim Costello, spokesperson for the Alliance

“Every state Parliament should be looking towards this decision and following their lead, committing to significant reforms.”

The Alliance congratulates the Tasmanian “Community Voice on Pokies Reform” alliance of over 60 organisations and thousands of Tasmanians for their grassroots effort for change. James Boyce’s “Losing Streak: How Tasmania was gamed by the gambling industry” was also powerful in shifting the Tasmanian debate.

Now the pressure is on other parties and other states to lift their game, and be on the right side of history.

“The Tasmanian Liberal party now needs to recognise that Tasmanians want reform, and to give this policy bi-partisan support. The majority of Tasmanians support completely removing poker machines from all pubs and clubs.”

“Victoria and NSW state governments need to catch up and bring forward policy to reduce gambling harm. They have a bigger task ahead of them, and cannot pave the way for the pokies industry any longer.”

“In NSW the Government and Opposition have a MoU with gambling Clubs NSW, an appalling agreement which both sides need to tear up.”

“In Victoria, the ALP Andrews government and the Liberal / National opposition both failed to listen and respond to those impacted by gambling when they passed terrible legislation. Now they need to follow the Tasmanians and take strong policy to the 2018 election.”

“The Federal group had a monopoly on pokies and should accept this decision rather than fight it. After a long inquiry and a massive state-wide debate, the way forward is clear – it’s time to remove pokies out of Tassie pubs and clubs.”

“Western Australia will welcome another state joining it, were poker machines have always been restricted to casinos.”

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