

THE POKIES PLAY YOU

Revealed: Vic pokies losses highest in safest Labor seats

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As Victorian pokies gambling [soars to record levels](#) ahead of the November 24 state election, The Alliance for Gambling Reform today revealed [a league ladder of losses](#) by State seats showing the greatest harm is being caused in safe Labor seats.

Premier Daniel Andrews, Racing Minister Martin Pakula and Gaming Minister Marlene Kairouz all hold safe seats which appear in the top 10 for losses, whilst Liberal leader Matthew Guy represents the only conservative seat appearing in the top 20. (See [spreadsheet with rankings](#) of all 88 seats.)

The Alliance today also released an [interactive map](#) showing the 2017-18 pokies losses by lower house seats and upper house regions, including machine and venue numbers, plus both annualised and daily losses.

Click on any of the [88 seats on the map](#) and you will see where it ranks for losses in absolute terms and measured on a per capita basis.

Excluding Crown (\$450m in pokies losses in the seat of Albert Park), the central city seat of Melbourne suffered the greatest losses in 2017-18 with \$84 million whilst the safe Liberal seat of Warrandyte was the lowest with its single venue generating losses of just \$7.66 million.

The 12 Victorian seats where pokies losses topped \$50m in 2017-18 were:

1. Melbourne: (Greens, Ellen Sandell): \$84 million
2. Preston: (Labor, Robin Scott): \$64.1m
3. Footscray: (Labor, incoming Katie Hall): \$63.7m
4. Oakleigh: (Labor, Steve Dimopoulos): \$59.57m
5. Keysborough: (Labor, Racing Minister Martin Pakula): \$59.2m
6. Thomastown: (Labor, Brownyn Halfpenny): \$59.1m
7. Essendon: (Labor, Danny Pearson): \$58.9m
8. Mulgrave: (Labor, Premier Daniel Andrews): \$58.67m
9. Tarneit: (Labor, incoming Sarah Connolly): \$54.9m
10. St Albans: (Labor, Natalie Suleyman): \$54.4m
11. Kororoit: (Labor, Gaming Minister Marlene Kairouz): \$53.7m
12. Bulleen: (Liberal, Opposition Leader Matthew Guy): \$50.72m

The Coalition holds the 9 seats with the lowest pokies losses with Labor's least pokies harmed seat of Macedon coming in at number 10 or 79th on the [league ladder of all 88 seats](#).

The Alliance has also broken down state-wide losses across the 8 upper house regions.

The Western Metropolitan region (which includes the seats held by Treasurer Tim Pallas and Gaming Minister Marlene Kairouz) suffered the worst losses with \$494.45 million, followed by Northern Metropolitan with \$445.4 million and South Eastern Metropolitan with \$421.46 million.

The upper house regions with more conservative MPs had the lowest losses led by Northern Victoria with \$219.5 million and Southern Metropolitan with \$234.46 million.

Alliance for Gambling Reform director and spokesman Tim Costello said the new data confirmed once again that poker machine harm and losses are concentrated in areas of disadvantage which tend to be represented by the Labor Party.

“Given that Daniel Andrews represents Mulgrave, a seat with the 8th highest losses in the state, you would hope there would be stronger policies from Labor to reduce harm from an unfair addictive product,” Mr Costello said.

“And Liberal leader Matthew Guy should be shocked that his seat of Bulleen [ranks 12th in the state](#) with \$50.7 million of losses in 2017-18, the worst of any Coalition held seat.”

“Poker machines are a con and are designed to addict vulnerable people so it should come as no surprise that seats such as Preston, Keysborough, Mulgrave, Footscray and St Albans suffer losses which are more than 5 times greater than affluent city seats such as Kew and Warrandyte or country seats such as Eildon and Benambra.”

With early voting starting today, The Alliance will be engaging with candidates across the board seeking support for reforms in the next Parliament such as \$1 maximum bets, reducing daily cash withdrawals from \$500 to \$200 and a reduction in operating hours. (See [Alliance election policy](#).)

The losses for individual venues are greatest where they trade for the maximum 20 hours a day, as can be seen in the list of the 12 most lucrative venues (see [p3 of this release](#)) in Victoria in 2017-18.

“It is no coincidence that the seats with the highest losses also host most of the individual venues with the highest losses which almost exclusively are hotels trading 20 hours a day in safe Labor seats,” Mr Costello said.

State seats hosting the top 10 venues for pokies losses in 2017-18

1. Epping Plaza Hotel (Thomastown, ALP) - \$20.8 million
2. Plough Hotel (Mill Park, ALP) - \$19.4 million
3. Berwick Springs Hotel (Narre Warren South, ALP) - \$18.9 million
4. Keysborough Hotel (Keysborough, ALP) - \$18.2 million
5. Gladstone Park Hotel (Yuroke, ALP) - \$17.7 million
6. Skyways Taverner (Niddrie, ALP) - \$17.5 million
7. Kealba Hotel (St Albans, ALP) - \$17.5 million
8. Bundoora Taverner (Bundoora, ALP) – \$17.4 million
9. Rosstown Hotel (Oakleigh, ALP) - \$17.3 million
10. Roxburgh Park Hotel (Broadmeadows, ALP) - \$17.1 million

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