

# THE POKIES PLAY YOU

## Tim Costello on Woolies & Jaidyn Stephenson gambling transgressions

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

Alliance for Gambling Reform director and spokesman Tim Costello made the following comments today responding to [Woolworths/ALH facing disciplinary action](#) for supplying free alcohol to pokies gamblers in NSW and Jaidyn Stephenson's [10 match ban](#) for gambling on Collingwood games he played in.

### WOOLWORTHS

"I congratulate ILGA for [launching this action](#) against ALH/Woolworths and once again call on the Woolworths board to follow the lead of Coles and get right out of the predatory pokies business."

"What sort of corporate culture allows pokies gamblers to be offered free alcohol late into the night at Woolworths venues when this is clearly illegal in NSW?"

"This is disgraceful conduct from the fresh food people which repeatedly claim to be responsible when in fact they are the worst major pokies operator in Australia, keeping venues open as long as possible, lobbying against reform, plying gamblers with free grog, making political donations, thrashing its loyalty scheme, litigating councils which resist pokies applications and even keeping secret records on gamblers."

"Recently installed ALH chairman and Woolworths CEO Brad Banducci should be fronting up publicly to explain his company's behaviour today rather than [hiding behind a nameless ALH spokesman](#)."

"I also call on Woolworths to publically release the Responsible Gambling Council of Canada investigation into its pokies practices which was identified in the 2018 Woolworths sustainability report ([see p55](#))."

### JAIDYN STEPHENSON

"How can the AFL be a fair dinkum cop on the beat stamping out gambling amongst players when it is pocketing an estimated \$10 million annual sponsorship payment from foreign gambling giant Beteasy?"

"As The Alliance [said only last Friday](#), the AFL should follow the lead of the British Football Association and terminate all sponsorship arrangements with gambling companies to remove the obvious conflict of interest."

"What message does the AFL send to players like Jaidyn Stephenson when it is up to its eye-balls in the gambling industry, particularly through the Beteasy deal but also through various stadium signage deals across the AFL system, not to mention the deluge of gambling advertising on radio and TV during AFL broadcasts."

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