

**POKER MACHINES ARE PLAYING US ALL**

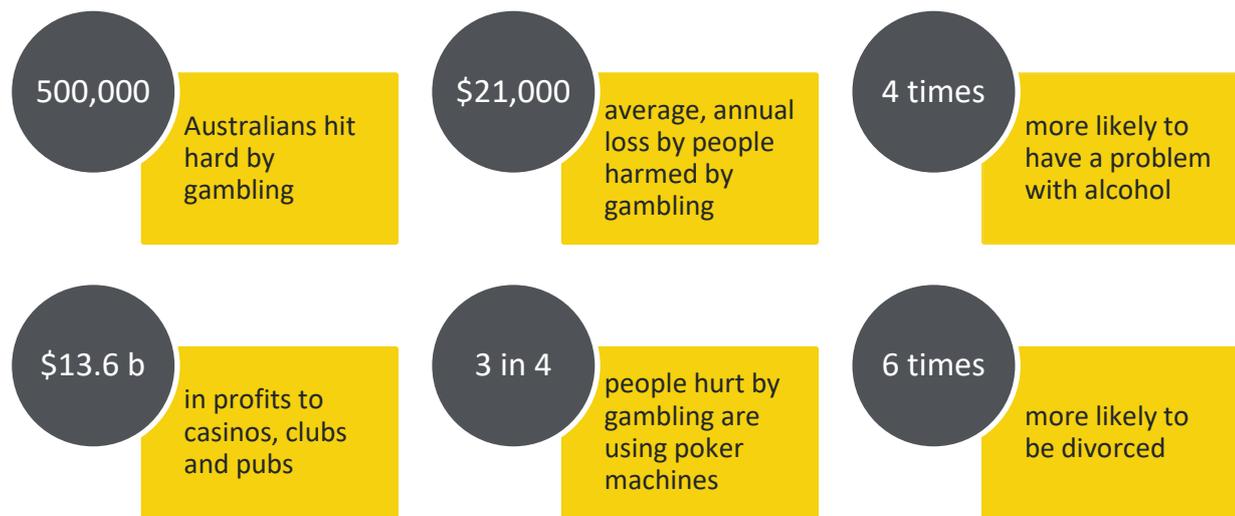
Australians lose more money to big gambling than any other country in the world- \$23 billion every year<sup>i</sup>, largely from Australians who can least afford it. They cause the same chemical reactions in the brain as cocaine.

It's no accident. Over decades, poker machines have been designed to addict.

Like a loaded dice, they're rigged. Right now one of the world's largest designers of poker machines is in court, facing allegations their machines break the law, because they mislead and deceive ordinary Australians.

[ Info-graphic references – Illegal drugs <sup>ii</sup> Alcohol<sup>iii</sup> and tobacco<sup>iv</sup> ]

Like tobacco, pokies are addictive, legal, and a serious health issue. There are over 500,000 Australians living with the financial stress, relationship breakdown and mental illness that comes with poker machine addiction.



[ Info-graphic references – all expect \$15.2 b <sup>v</sup> - Profit <sup>vi</sup>

**POKIES PLAY VICTORIA**

Poker machines have taken \$2.6 billion dollars from Victorians in the last 12 months alone<sup>vii</sup>, \$50 billion since they were allowed into the state.

Gambling causes twice as much harm to the health of Australians as diabetes, bipolar disorder and cannabis dependence combined.<sup>viii</sup>

In [ council area ] there are X,XXX poker machines that take \$XX,XXX each from our community. That's why [ council name ] has joined the Alliance for Gambling Reform. <sup>ix</sup>

**TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

[ Council name ] is working with over 60 other councils and community groups across Australia in the Alliance for Gambling Reform. We're advocating for tougher laws that make poker machines less addictive, and less dangerous.

We're also advocating for changes in Victorian law that would give communities a real say over poker machines in [ Council name ]. Thousands of Australians have joined the Alliance, making us a powerful force for change.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

It's easy to be a part of solution.

1. Join the Alliance

[www.pokiesplayyou.org.au/\[councilname\]](http://www.pokiesplayyou.org.au/[councilname])

We'll keep you informed and provide you with simple ways to support the campaign

2. Request a campaign kit

[www.pokiesplayyou.org.au/kit](http://www.pokiesplayyou.org.au/kit) [or else a council contact form page]

The kit include stickers, posters, postcards and informative flyers to share with your friends, family, community group or workplace.

3. Watch the educational, award winning film 'Ka-Ching: Pokie Nation' [ka-chingpokienation.vhx.tv](http://ka-chingpokienation.vhx.tv)

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i Australian Gambling Statistics, 32nd Edition, 1989–90 to 2014–15 <http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/products/reports/aus-gambling-stats/p60>

ii ABS 5204.0.55.008 - Information Paper: The Non-Observed Economy and Australia's GDP, 2012

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/5204.0.55.008Main%20Features82012?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=5204.0.55.008&issue=2012&num=&view=> also cited by unHarm here [http://www.unharm.org/how\\_much\\_do\\_australians\\_spend\\_each\\_year\\_on\\_illegal\\_drugs](http://www.unharm.org/how_much_do_australians_spend_each_year_on_illegal_drugs)

iii Australian Bureau of Statistics. 6503.0 Household Expenditure Survey and Survey of Income and Housing: summary of results, 2009-10. Canberra: ABS, 2011. Available from: <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/6530.02009-10?OpenDocument> Also cited here <https://www.moneysmart.gov.au/managing-your-money/budgeting/spending/australian-spending-habits>

iv Australian Bureau of Statistics. 6503.0 Household Expenditure Survey and Survey of Income and Housing: summary of results, 2009-10. Canberra: ABS, 2011. Available from: <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/6530.02009-10?OpenDocument> and also cited here <http://www.tobaccoinaustralia.org.au/2-4-expenditure-on-tobacco-products#x4>.

v <http://www.problemgambling.gov.au/facts/>

vi <https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/products/reports/aus-gambling-stats/aus-gambling-stats-32nd-edn-product-tables.xlsx>

vii VCGLR

<https://www.vcgr.vic.gov.au/CA256F800017E8D4/VCGLR/D6FBF3C7D7FC7E86CA257B3200786F30?OpenDocument>

viii VRGF <http://www.responsiblegambling.vic.gov.au/information-and-resources/research/recent-research/assessing-gambling-related-harm-in-victoria-a-public-health-perspective>

ix VCGLR Gaming expenditure by local government area <http://www.vcglr.vic.gov.au/home/resources/data+and+research/data/>