

# IMPACT NEWS

VOLUME 12: ISSUE 2 summer 2011 –12

www.gisnsw.org.au

## A FEW HOME TRUTHS ABOUT POKIES REFORM

Check out the  
GIS website —  
[www.gisnsw.org.au](http://www.gisnsw.org.au)



### Inside this issue:

<i>A few home truths about pokies reform</i>	1-2
<i>Society News</i>	2
<i>Show me the money</i>	3
<i>Rage against the poker machine</i>	4-5
<i>We love pokies reform</i>	5
<i>O'Farrell satisfies clubs desires whilst punters pick up the tab</i>	6
<i>Upcoming events</i>	7
<i>Useful Resources</i>	

Gambling reform has become a hot political issue throughout 2011, and seems certain to stay prominently on the agenda into 2012. Some cynics suggest that elements in the Government wish it would go away, although both the Prime Minister and Jenny Macklin have recently restated their commitment to the introduction of pre-commitment for pokies gamblers. The pro-pokies lobby, headed by Clubs NSW, also wants it to go away, although they have, this year, been very good at making the pokies issue less about reform and more about them. This is narcissist lobbying – self-promotion as an argument for reform inertia. The problem for the pro-pokies lobby is that pokies reform is not about them, as much as they might complain about its impacts on their revenue stream. Yes, they are very good at lobbying, having, it seems, spooked some politicians representing marginal seats, and having then persuaded elements of the press gallery that they are indeed politically powerful. But then, who wouldn't enjoy such success, with \$40 million to spend. Why are gambling reformers committed to seeing these changes through? The answer is in the harm that pokies do to ordinary people all around Australia. A TV movie this week suggested that, at Christmas, one should tell the truth – so here's a few truths about the pokies issue, at the end of this eventful year. The pokies lobby clearly wants to downplay the harm and suffering associated with pokies gambling. Problem gambling in Australia is strongly associated with poker machines – although plenty of people get into big problems with other gambling forms more than three quarters of problem

trouble because they play the pokies. And the evidence overwhelmingly suggests that if they didn't have a problem with pokies, they wouldn't have a gambling problem. The Clubs try to tell us that problem gamblers are flawed individuals who would get into trouble in some other way if there weren't 185,500 high intensity pokies scattered throughout Australia's suburban pubs and clubs (there's another 12,300 in Australian casinos). This, frankly, is nonsense. As the Productivity Commission found "the greater the extent of the problem, the more likely it is related to EGMs." Australia's current environment is one where almost every conceivable form of gambling is readily available. If anything else were as likely to induce a problem as pokies, it would be pretty obvious. Yet, for example, the likelihood of having a gambling problem is increased by as much as 17.5 times if you use pokies, compared to buying a lottery ticket. Pokies are the problem, not flawed consumers. And what are the consequences of a gambling problem? Again, the pokie lobby likes to gloss over this, and focus on how much it will cost to solve the problem, conveniently forgetting that the problem is one they have caused, and in a reasonable world would be required to remedy. The manufacturer of an unsafe car wouldn't get very far by arguing that it costs too much to fix it. Why do pokies operators and manufacturers get away with such an argument. There are, at any one time, 116,000 people in Australia with a full blown gambling problem, and another 279,000 on the path to one. Each of these people will directly affect others: (continued page 2...)

## Society Activities

This has been a very active quarter once again with major media coverage of the proposed reforms. As GIS chairperson I have been busy voicing the concerns of the problem gambling community, their families and friends as best one can in a very polarized climate and with minimal resources.

As we go to print we have just heard the Federal government's announcement with regards their commitment to pokies reform. Whilst some are heralding this as a win for the club and hotel industry in that it delays pre-commitment until 2016, the commitment to a major trial of full and comprehensive pre-commitment on poker machines in the ACT next year must be welcomed by all. However, this is not a time for recriminations despite the knowledge that such a delay will mean further devastation to Australian families as more relationships and lives are lost in the face of pokie machine addictions.

The trial will require a comprehensive education program to support it and we will continue to lobby for commitments to the Productivity Commission's recommendations for "good governance" structures to further develop effective harm reduction gambling policy and regulation. The need for increased integration between gambling and public health policy units and service delivery is an obvious one.

The Gambling Impact Society has joined the "Stop the Loss" coalition of community organisations to maintain the pressure on the government to develop real and meaningful reforms to poker machines and the gambling industry in Australia. This recent disappointment will only serve to strengthen the resolve of this campaign to ensure a greater voice for those who have suffered the negative consequences and the major damage of a poker machine addiction.

Here at the GIS we support ongoing community education, support services for individuals and families and the development of prevention and early intervention



programs. But most importantly we believe this is a product safety issue and consumers need tools to enable them to maintain safe play with what we know after 11 years of evidence-based research is a product of "dangerous consumption".

The Stop The Loss Campaign will be working to increase understanding by the community as to why meaningful reform is necessary and create a balance to the misinformation promulgated by the industry to undermine such change. This is also your time to get involved. So visit the website, read the material that will be sent to over 1 million Australian households and get a balanced view. This is your Country, your community, your families, your consumer right to a safe product!

Kate Roberts-Chairperson

### Disclaimer:

The views and opinions contained in this newsletter are not necessarily the views and opinions of GIS (NSW) Inc.

## A FEW HOME TRUTHS ABOUT POKIES REFORM continued from page 1

children, parents, spouses, neighbors, employers, friends, lovers, colleagues and customers. The effects of a gambling problem include physical and mental illness; financial ruin, the loss of family and corporate assets, and bankruptcy; relationship difficulties, family breakdown and divorce; crime, including fraud, theft, violence and deception; and suicide, self-harm, and the neglect and abuse of children.

Pokies venues are disproportionately concentrated in already disadvantaged areas, thus compounding their effects. They actively diminish social capital and opportunity and appear to have a powerful effect on the intergenerational transmission of disadvantage. They keep poor people poor, and redistribute resources regressively. These are not insignificant problems or issues, and unlike most of the problems that confront us in public health, the pokies lobby is fond of saying that they don't want any problem gamblers in their venues. Yet they derive around 40 per cent of their revenue from those with such a problem, and another 20 per cent from those on the path to one. Their preferred 'solution' to problem gambling is more counselling. Unfortunately, although counselling can be very effective for those who use it, the vast majority of problem gamblers (probably 90 per cent or more) never access such services. And, even more unfortunately, by the time gamblers do go to counsellors, the damage has been done: the family broken up, the kids traumatised, the money gone, the house sold, the job lost, the depression fully formed, health ruined, and in far too many cases a family member lost. Surely it would be far better to prevent the problem in the first place? Gambling reform is about acknowledging we've got a problem, and dealing with it. How many broken homes, suicides, neglected kids and ruined lives are enough to convince them, and our political leaders, that it's time we sorted this out?

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/unleashed/3750140.html> 29 December 2011 Charles Livingstone

Charles Livingstone is Deputy head of the Department of Health Social Science at Monash University. The data in this article were sourced from the Productivity Commission's 2010 report on gambling, notably chapters four and five.

# Consumer Voice

Is anyone listening out there? Hands up all those whose lives have been affected by the Impact of Problem Gambling. In other words, have any of you experienced the prevailing consequences of this addiction in your family, as has been so clearly defined, by Dr Charles Livingstone, from the Dept of Health Social Science Monash University, in his article 'A Few Home Truths' which is published in this issue. If so, you have been through the family break-up, loss of home and/or contents, job loss, traumatised children etc. and the mental anguish and insurmountable depression. Our government supports this ludicrous way of conducting business. A fine example of leadership, when so many of their constituents suffer because of it!!

Why have we all remained silent about the effects of a man-made electronic machine – albeit, a monster, one that can take our livelihood away, laugh all the way to the bank and then give our money back to the man who made it! 'Consumer Voice' state that consumers need protection from products, with timely information and intervention. Every activity of Consumer Voice aims to :-

- Achieve the goals of sustainable and ethical consumption
- Protect the right of choice for the Safety and Health of consumers and the environment.
- Mobilise public opinion to bring about changes for the benefit of consumers.

Consumer Voice is the most powerful tool in the hands of the consumer to

help them fight for 'Value For Money'

To save their product (one which can bring such harm to families) the clubs are spending \$40 million dollars to argue a case against reforms – for their benefit, not yours or mine or for those families supported by Centrelink. Is this value for money?

Please join our Consumer Voices campaign. Contact your local member – you don't have to give your name. Become powerful in your own right. This, is your right. Take it and use it for your own sake and others.

For our government to acquiesce to the current \$40 million gambling industry campaign to fight Federal government gambling reform is both shameful and obscene and, as any home executive would say, it is just appalling housekeeping! D. Webb

# Pokies Update: we will continue the fight

**Minutes ago the Prime Minister announced a back-down on poker machine reform. Even though enough politicians were prepared to support the Productivity Commission's recommendations to slow down machines to \$1 maximum bets, the Prime Minister chose the weakest of all options on the table – deferring action to beyond the next election.**

Today's announcement is a far cry from the meaningful reforms that were recommended by the independent Productivity Commission, based on 11 years of research and is an insult to the millions of Australian families who were counting on genuine reform. **But it's crucial that we don't lose heart.**

**We need to keep in mind why we're fighting for reforms in the first place; for the people, not the politics.** People like Clelia who lost her son in law to poker machine addiction and Ilona whose elderly mother lost her entire retirement savings to the pokies – despite her mother having dementia and poker machine operators doing nothing to help. We owe it to the families of those who've lost loved ones to the scourge of this industry not to lose hope because **there are still reforms to be won and we must fight for them until we win.**

We've already accomplished so much in a battle that has us pitted against the deep pockets of a poker machine industry that isn't afraid to fight dirty and pervert the facts. We've built a powerful movement for poker machine reform, the likes of which Australia has never seen. We've helped set up a new coalition of organisations that serve and represent almost three million people and we've sparked thousands of conversations across the country which have catapulted poker machine reform on to the front pages. Together, through newspaper and TV ads, our direct mail campaign and a huge petition, we made sure politicians could not escape the stories of the impact that poker machine addiction has on Australian families. And we've achieved real and measurable milestones. ATM daily withdrawal limits at poker machine venues will now be capped at \$250 and all new machines will have to be mandatory pre-commitment compatible. Best of all, as one poker machine venue operator admitted on Sydney radio this week, the national conversation that has been sparked by those in support of reform has **already led gamblers to turn away from dangerous, high loss machines.**

**Together we can harness our disappointment and use it to fuel our movement and make it stronger.** The Stop the Loss coalition, of which GetUp is a founding member, launched yesterday and represents an unprecedented joining together of community, religious and consumer groups from around the country. **The coalition is committed to continuing the fight for meaningful reform.**

Thank you for your passion and commitment over the first stage of our campaign to win genuine poker machine reform. **This next phase will require patience and heart but we're confident we will prevail – people powered movements always do.** We'll keep in touch about the next steps and will update you on coalition efforts along the way.

**Thanks for standing strong, Erin, for the GetUp team 21/1/12**

P.S. To take further action on this issue and join the Stop the Loss campaign, you can visit <http://www.stoptheloss.org.au>

# RAGE AGAINST THE POKER MACHINE - A 2011 RETROSPECTIVE

by cyenne on Dec.31, 2011 <http://www.cyenne.com/discussion/rage-against-the-poker-machine-a-2011-retrospective/>

2011 has been a **big year in the hearts and political minds of Australia**. We've had a succession of issues that have engendered fierce debate and polarised the country (if you believe the papers). Climate change and the carbon tax. Gay marriage. Freedom of speech. Racial discrimination. Asylum seekers. Religion in schools. Qantas and the FWA. The media inquiry. Mining tax. It's a long and by no means exhaustive list.

Yet arguably the single biggest issue for 2011 was poker machines. The scene was set late in 2010 when Julia Gillard shook hands with Andrew Wilkie and secured not only his vote, but also her role as Prime Minister... and in doing so dragged the pokies onto the national stage. Her commitment to true poker machine reform as part of this deal horrified the industry, and we've all been talking about it ever since.

There is not one other topic that has generated as much press, as much vitriol as the pokies did in 2011. They remained firmly on centre stage for the entire year, from the start of January when 300 NSW pokie pubs faced foreclosure because their reliance on poker machine revenue made them non-viable, to the end of December and Jacob Saulwick's excellent analysis of the industry-friendly overhaul of NSW legislation concerning clubs donations from gaming machines.

Along the way there were campaigns and rallies, accusations and justifications. Facts, figures and speculation flew thick and fast. Clubs Australia spent the whole of 2011 screaming about poker machine reform, and the likes of Tim Costello, Charles Livingstone and others (including myself) spent the year pointing out the gaping holes in their arguments. It was, indeed, an action-packed year.

**January** kicked off the way the previous year ended: with the clubs slamming poker machine reforms. In this, they were relentless all year. Sydney's Star City casino made the headlines twice, first for chasing an extra 1,000 poker machines (because you can **never** have enough poker machines) and then for their sponsorship of South Sydney Rabbitohs, a situation that saw accusations of hypocrisy levelled at owner Russell Crowe.

One high point was the end of Jan Juc's long-running fight to remain pokie-free. A VCAT appeal against the VCGR's decision to reject the Beach Hotel's poker machine application was dropped, and the book closed on the matter.

**February**, Melbourne Storm followed the Rabbitoh's lead by signing a sponsorship deal with Crown casino. The SANFL predicted that poker machine reforms would kill footy in South Australia, the Victorian government vowed to fight the reforms in the High Court and ALH general manager David Curry claimed that playing poker machines was like "eating a burger".

Along the way, fingerprinting was formally ruled out as an option for mandatory pre-commitment... not that it was ever much of an option anyway, despite all the fuss the clubs industry made about it.

**March** was a sign of things to come. A number of NRL clubs stated publicly that they were opposed to poker machine reforms, claiming they would have to shut down if the reforms went ahead. Church groups across the country got together and launched the Australian Churches Gambling Taskforce, speaking out firmly in support of the government's proposed reforms. And Brendan Fevola made headlines when he was spotted playing the pokies in a pub in Berwick, in what was a classic example of how the media cares more about the story than the person.

**April** saw the launch of the "It's Un-Australian" campaign by the clubs and pubs of Australia. This farcical campaign was condemned across the country and made a laughing stock of the

industry. The original Clubs Australia internet commercial was pulled after four days (although we all have copies, don't we?) and a number of spoof versions were quickly shut down for copyright violation.

Almost lost in the "Un-Australian" media stampede was the news of death threats made to Andrew Wilkie about his reform campaign, and reports that hundreds of thousands of dollars received by Queensland flood victims in the form of donations and welfare had ended up being spent in that state's pokies.

**May** started with the premature winding-back of the "It's Un-Australian" campaign. Guess there's only so much laughter an industry can take! Karl Bitar signed on with Crown, Norway's slot machines hit the headlines and live odds broadcasting was banned (although that hasn't taken effect yet) but the big news for May was the release of the Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform's report into mandatory pre-commitment. This report contained the blueprint for the government's reforms, which were not quite what the industry expected

**June** was dominated by the airing of the Four Corners program on the proposed poker machine reforms. The show drew much criticism for its focus on the financial impact that reforms might have on the industry, rather than the positive social impact they are expected to have on poker machine addicts and society as a whole.

Also in June, the Victorian Gambling Study was released, showing that Victoria sees 16,000 new problem gamblers every year... and Mediawatch did a demolition job on the 40% revenue figure that the clubs industry had used to underpin their arguments.

**July** was all about the NRL, who formally joined the clubs and pubs in opposing poker machine reforms. Their claims that reforms would kill the NRL and shut down the majority of clubs were greeted with howls of derision and disbelief across the country... yes, even in NSW.

In August, the NSW state government showed yet again why they are the poker machine state. In a brutal Budget containing cuts at almost every level, the Government found a way to grant \$300 million in gambling-related tax breaks to the clubs industry. Alan Jones recorded a video message of support for anti-reform rallies taking place across NSW. And in Victoria, Hawthorn president Jeff Kennett (who oversaw massive expansion of the Victorian poker machine industry as premier) claimed that poker machine reforms would hurt the AFL.

**July** was all about the NRL, who formally joined the clubs and pubs in opposing poker machine reforms. Their claims that reforms would kill the NRL and shut down the majority of clubs were greeted with howls of derision and disbelief across the country... yes, even in NSW.

In August, the NSW state government showed yet again why they are the poker machine state. In a brutal Budget containing cuts at almost every level, the Government found a way to grant \$300 million in gambling-related tax breaks to the clubs industry. Alan Jones recorded a video message of support for anti-reform rallies taking place across NSW. And in Victoria, Hawthorn president Jeff Kennett (who oversaw massive expansion of the Victorian poker machine industry as premier) claimed that poker machine reforms would hurt the AFL. **September** was then things really picked up. The month started with another round of Norwegian poker machine hysteria, which was quickly followed (Continued Page 5...)

Continued from page 4

by the launch of Clubs Australia's second campaign, "Won't Work, Will Hurt". But September belonged to pokies and sport. At the start of AFL Grand Final week, Clubs Australia and every news outlet in the country spread the word that the AFL was joining forces with clubs and the NRL in opposing poker machine reforms. There were media releases, there were articles, there was outcry and condemnation. And of course (as I said at the time) they were all completely wrong. AFL boss Andrew Demetriou's plea to Anthony Ball to "just shut up" remains one of the highlights of the year.

And who can forget the half time political ponderings of Ray Warren and Phil Gould during an NRL preliminary final? Their actions drew widespread criticism and triggered an investigation of Channel Nine when it was confirmed (by Warren) that their comments were scripted and supplied to them.

**October** was also a very willing month for poker machine news. Clubs Australia started offering to hold a trial of pre-commitment technology... on their terms, and with compensation. Secret club documents were leaked on the Clubs Queensland website, including a guide on how to deal with the media. The Greens announced their policy for \$1 poker machines. And James Packer waded into the debate, talking about the "latte set" and doing himself no favours at all. Poker machines in Catholic clubs and the development of earphone jacks for pokies were two issues that also raised their heads in October... courtesy of my blog.

**November** was all about politics. After previously refusing to commit to rolling back poker machine reform, Tony Abbott "predicted" that that was exactly what he would do if he gained power. His Coalition also released their gambling policy, which turned out to be little more than a discussion paper that was copied straight out of the Clubs Australia handbook. Harry Jenkins resigned from his role as Speaker of the House of Representatives and Peter Slipper took over the job, which gave the government an additional pro-reform vote on the floor (Jenkins had previously come out strongly in support of the reforms). The accompanying media frenzy claimed that this move spelled the end of poker machine reforms in Australia, as it marginalised Andrew Wilkie's position, but to date the government has stuck to their guns. Once again, the media got it wrong. And supermarket ownership of poker machines hit the headlines, when it was revealed that Woolworths (through ALH) owned more poker machines than the top five Las Vegas casinos combined. Coles, too, drew criticism for their investment in the Queensland poker machine industry, operating more pokies than any Australian casino.

Which brings us to **December**. This month has been dominated by Fr Chris Riley, founder of the Youth Off The Streets charity, who lent his face to the Clubs Australia anti-reform campaign. Millions of flyers bearing his image and his message were distributed to households up and down the east coast. Riley's involvement in the campaign, coupled with his long term support of the gambling industry and their long term financial support of his foundation, drew heavy criticism from all parts of the country. Clubs Australia hit back, claiming that comments made by Rev Tim Costello made him a hypocrite with delusions of moral superiority. It was all fun and games in December. Former AFL footballer and problem gambler David Schwarz also came out on the side of the industry, releasing a video where he explained why reforms wouldn't work. And the year drew to a close the same way it started, as Tweed club bosses issued warning to local MPs and the NSW branch of the AHA essentially declared war on the government.

Yes, 2011 has been a heck of a year for poker machines. And with the Federal government's reform legislation due in May 2012, it's not likely that we're going to stop talking about them any time soon.

## **"WE LOVE POKIES REFORM" NEEDS YOUR HELP**

We Love Pokies Reform is a page is for Australians and overseas supporters who want to send Australian Federal MP's a clear Valentines Day message that We LOVE Pokies Reforms. Parliament begins debating the Pokies Reform Bill in March/April 2012

Press "Like" to tell our MP's that pokies reform is a TOP Priority.

Order cards via Facebook OR via return email and we will print them, add your message and take all the Valentines Day cards we collect to Canberra.

Multiple cards welcome.

Red Cards represent all the people you know who have had a problem.

Pink cards represent the number of people you know who have been affected by another persons gambling

White cards represent a request for Federal MP's to support the Pokies Reform Bill.

Purple cards are for international supporters.

\*\* Please share our link with your friends, far and wide?

We will put all cards on a HUGE heart-shaped placard on the green front lawn of Parliament House, on February 14th 2012.

\*\* Want to remain private / anonymous? Then send an email to nellgwynn55@bigpond.com or send a Valentines Day card to PO Box 91, Para Hills, SA 5096.

**THANK YOU FOR STANDING UP AND BEING COUNTED**

**<https://www.facebook.com/events/108087755978878/>**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**22 February/Auckland NZ-4th International Gambling Conference** [www.pgfnz.org.nz/4thinter-gam-conf2012/0.27102.00html](http://www.pgfnz.org.nz/4thinter-gam-conf2012/0.27102.00html)

**3-4 April/Sydney/ RGF Gambling Counsellors Conference "Sharing the Knowledge"**

**17th May 2012/ Wollongong/ The GIS annual PUBLIC SEMINAR' - a Responsible Gambling Awareness Week lead in event. The Innovation Campus Wollongong University –refer [www.gisnsw.org.au](http://www.gisnsw.org.au) for further details**

# O'Farrell satisfies clubs' desires, while punters pick up the tab

SMH December 28, 2011 Opinion

In two pieces of legislation this year, the O'Farrell government went part of the way to implementing its "clubs and community rescue package". No matter how long they remain in power, O'Farrell and Co will find themselves hard-pressed matching these unnecessary and retrograde bills for small-mindedness and ridiculousness. NSW clubs are a difficult beast because they do some good work and, in parts of the state, they are, above all, a place to go.

When it's hot outside, they are air-conditioned. When the streets are intimidating, clubs are well-lit and secure. Their courtesy buses take you from your front door to the club door, besting other modes of Sydney transport for convenience and reliability.

But all this underlines the tragic way in which clubs act against the interests of their members. Gambling counsellors say that, for older women in particular, one of the main attractions of clubs is the feeling of safety they get there. The counsellors end up seeing these women when they get trapped in the depressive spiral of losing on the pokies. These losses, of course, are the only way that clubs can pay for their air-conditioned temples of Mammon.

They are the only way they can pay for their bullying and dishonest campaigns against measures that would reduce the rate at which people lose on pokies. And they help explain their political clout.

O'Farrell struck his deal with the clubs when in opposition. The worst part of the deal, which he has started to enact since taking government, is the \$264 million in poker-machine tax cuts he has granted clubs over the next four years.

Incidentally, after these cuts, the government will forgo \$770 million a year by taxing poker machines in clubs at a lower rate than those in pubs. (Providing free public transport to school children costs hundreds of millions less than this.) But there are other parts of the deal that are almost as offensive, largely because the legislation might well have been written by clubs themselves, so comprehensively does it satisfy their desires.

To get a sense of this, it is useful to walk through the changes to the way clubs are encouraged to distribute money to the community.

The previous mechanism was the Community Development and Support Expenditure scheme. It was renamed Club-GRANTS in September, presumably as a concession to the vanity of the managers and board members who dole out the cheques.

Under the CDSE scheme, clubs that earned more than \$1 million a year in profits from poker machines were allowed to sign up for tax breaks, or rebates, if they gave an equivalent amount of money away. In the 2010-11 financial year, from what I can make out, the pool of profits from which this money came was about \$2.48 billion.

The maximum rebate clubs could get under the scheme was 1.5 per cent of their profits. In other words, this 1.5 per cent - \$37 million last year - represented the size of the contribution clubs made under the CDSE scheme and also the size of their CDSE tax break. (Clubs say they spent more than \$63

Million on CDSE funds last year. That could be right - I got the \$37 million figure by extrapolating from government reports.

There were rules on how that money needed to be distributed. To be eligible for the full 1.5 per cent rebate, clubs had to give at least half of it away under category one of the CDSE scheme.

Category one funds are distributed by committees, made up of representatives of clubs and community, welfare and social groups. The money also has to be spent in the local government area from which it was raised.

Last year, there were 73 areas that were eligible for category one funds because they housed clubs that chalked up more than \$1 million in profit.

However, 10 per cent of the \$18 million which was distributed across the state needed to be spent in the one area, Fairfield, Sydney's most disadvantaged area and its poker-machine epicentre.

The CDSE scheme granted clubs more leeway in how they could spend category two funds, but there were still rules. They did not have to spend the money on community projects but could spend it on junior sport. They could spend it on "cultural activities" but not in a way that would specifically benefit the interests of the club. They could not spend the money to fund their own day-to-day activities or on professional or semi-professional sport.

After O'Farrell's changes, the rules around category one spending under ClubGRANTS will remain the same as under the CDSE scheme. There will be no compulsory increase in the money clubs need to spend on public health schemes, counselling or community education programs.

But the size of the category two funding pool has been lifted under ClubGRANTS, from 0.75 per cent of total profits to 1.1 per cent. More significantly, clubs are given greater freedom in how they distribute this larger pot.

Now, under Club GRANTS, clubs can spend category two funds on their "core activities" - be that golf course upkeep, or bowling green maintenance - and claim the tax break. They can also make payments to NRL clubs, provided the money is not directly spent on player or coach payments, and claim the tax break. The NRL, half-owned by News Limited, can now be the recipient of "community contributions".

The other change is to add a third category of Club GRANTS expenditure. This third category - 0.4 per cent of the pool of clubs earning more than \$1 million in profit, estimated to come in at more than \$10 million - can be spent anywhere across the state. Clubs in Fairfield, for instance, will chip in about 10 per cent to this pot but the money will not have to be spent there.

And unlike the other categories, the Council of Social Service of NSW will not be consulted on how the money is spent. Category three can be doled out at the prerogative of the Gaming Minister and Clubs NSW. Presumably, they'll spend it wisely.



**Phone Gambling Help  
NSW for information on  
your local Problem  
Gambling Service  
1800 858 858**

# Useful Resources

- Don't Leave It to Chance : A guide for families of problem gamblers—  
Edward Federman, Charles Drebing & Christopher Krebs (self-help book)
- Adolescent gambling— Mark Griffiths
- Teenage Gambling— Carol Silverman Saunders
- Losing Your Shirt - Mary Heineman (self-help book)
- Behind The 8-Ball—A Guide For families Of Gamblers - Linda Berman & Mary –Ellen Siegel (self-help book)
- Overcoming Compulsive Gambling: A Self-Help Guide -  
Prof. Alex Blaszczynski
- Stop Gambling—A- Self-Help Manual For Giving Up Gambling - Simon Milton
- Wanna Bet—Winners And Losers In Gambling's Luck myth - Tim Costello & Royce Miller
- Stop Gambling Start Living - Laraine Rasmussen.
- House of Cards: Hope for gamblers and their families - Tom Raabe.
- The Addictive Personality—Craig Nakken
- Creating Self Esteem—Lynda Field
- Practical Financial Strategies Booklet : A Self Help Guide for Problem Gamblers By Gerri Coleman (Contact Central Coast Problem Gambling Service, 02 4344 7992).
- Free Yourself—Self-help Guide and Audio Tape kit - cost \$49.95 (Contact Gabriela Byrne, 0414 844 387)

\* \* \* \* \*  
 \* **NEW RESOURCES** \*  
 \* **PROBLEM GAMBLING—** \*  
 \* ***A Self Help Guide for*** \*  
 \* ***Families*** \*  
 \* Developed by the GIS this \*  
 \* 44 page publication is \*  
 \* available FREE download \*  
 \* at [www.gisnsw.org.au](http://www.gisnsw.org.au) or \*  
 \* order a hard copy at \*  
 \* [http://](http://www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au/GamblingHelp/SelfGuide.aspx) \*  
 \* [www.gamblinghelp.nsw.g](http://www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au/GamblingHelp/SelfGuide.aspx) \*  
 \* [ov.au/GamblingHelp/](http://www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au/GamblingHelp/SelfGuide.aspx) \*  
 \* [SelfGuide.aspx](http://www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au/GamblingHelp/SelfGuide.aspx) \*  
 \* \* \* \* \*



# Useful Websites

## Self-Help Websites

- [www.gamblinghelponline.org.au](http://www.gamblinghelponline.org.au)
- [www.gisnsw.org.au](http://www.gisnsw.org.au)
- [www.gansw.org.au](http://www.gansw.org.au)
- [www.gansw.org.au/GamAnon](http://www.gansw.org.au/GamAnon)
- [www.smartrecoveryaustralia.com.au](http://www.smartrecoveryaustralia.com.au)
- [www.3rdplace.com.au](http://www.3rdplace.com.au)
- [www.freeyourself.com.au](http://www.freeyourself.com.au)
- [www.nrgs.org.au](http://www.nrgs.org.au)
- [www.stvincents.com.au](http://www.stvincents.com.au)
- [www.education.mcgill.ca](http://www.education.mcgill.ca)
- [www.gamblersanonymous.org.au](http://www.gamblersanonymous.org.au)
- [www.miph.org/gambling](http://www.miph.org/gambling)
- [www.freeyourself.com.au](http://www.freeyourself.com.au)
- [www.responsiblegambling.org](http://www.responsiblegambling.org)
- [www.responsiblegambling.qld.gov.au](http://www.responsiblegambling.qld.gov.au)
- [www.gamblingproblem.co.nz](http://www.gamblingproblem.co.nz)
- [www.femalegamblers.org/suggestedreading](http://www.femalegamblers.org/suggestedreading)

## General Interest Websites

- [www.socialwork.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.socialwork.unimelb.edu.au)
- [www.nags.org.au](http://www.nags.org.au)
- [www.unsw.edu.au](http://www.unsw.edu.au)
- [www.afm.mb.ca](http://www.afm.mb.ca)
- [www.societystudygambling.co.uk](http://www.societystudygambling.co.uk)
- [www.camh.net](http://www.camh.net)
- [www.pgfnz.co.nz](http://www.pgfnz.co.nz)

**Shoalhaven Gambling Resource Library— GIS (NSW)** has developed a community library with reports, books, self-help literature & videos for loan to GIS (NSW) groups and others in the Shoalhaven locality. We can supply a resource list and are always looking for ideas for additions. Contact: GIS (NSW) 02 44215077

**(DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS?  
 PLEASE SEND THEM TO US SO WE CAN SHARE  
 YOUR IDEAS WITH OTHERS)**

Return Address:

Gambling Impact Society (NSW) Inc.  
c/o Nowra Neighbourhood Centre  
134 Kinghorne St  
Nowra

Phone: 02 44 215 077  
Fax: 02 44 216 872  
Email: info@gisnsw.org.au

Print Post Approved:

PP255003-05346

**SURFACE  
MAIL**

**POSTAGE PAID  
AUSTRALIA**

## WHY NOT JOIN & RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER QUARTERLY?

The Gambling Impact Society (NSW) Inc. looks forward to providing you with regular information and education on gambling and related subjects. The Society aims to increase public awareness through the newsletter, and provide a forum for support and information for those directly affected by problem gambling, community service providers and the gambling industry. We welcome your contributions to this newsletter and in joining we hope to provide you with an outlet for discussion, support & information. Your membership will contribute to the ongoing work in this field and help us achieve our goals.

Your membership fee will go to resource the publication of this newsletter and the further development of the society, which is a non-profit organisation developed and run by volunteers. Membership to 30 June each year is:

**Name**.....

**Organisation**.....

**Address**.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**Telephone:**

**Fax:**

**E-mail:**

**Please circle:**

Organisations \$50

Individuals \$25

Concessions/Students \$10

*Any news, personal stories, comments on articles, important information etc., please send correspondence to **The Editor** e-mail—[info@gisnsw.org.au](mailto:info@gisnsw.org.au) and mark in “subject” section - **for newsletter**, or mail to above address*