

Commission.

- I wish to make a personal submission to the Inquiry on one specific subject-the presence of ATMs in poker machine venues.
- On March 7,2004,our 28 year old son was struck by a train at Normanhurst (Sydney) railway station and killed.CCT footage obtained subsequently by the police investigating the incident showed he had fallen onto the track some ten minutes before the train that killed him (an express) arrived. The autopsy revealed he had a blood alcohol level of 0.285.His wallet was empty.
- The police investigation together with our own questioning revealed that he and a companion (who travelled on further) had caught a train at Hornsby(one station back from Normanhurst) after leaving a Hornsby hotel at around 4.00a.m. On that morning.Our son had alighted at Normanhurst(with assistance).
- Our son had both an alcohol and gambling problem.It was his practice when he went to this particular hotel on a Saturday night to return home by taxi.We were told by his companion that the reason he did not take a taxi on that fateful morning was that he had no money having withdrawn his total allowable credit from the ATM situated in the hotel's gambling area so he could continue playing the machines.The taxi fare from Hornsby to Normanhurst is \$10!
- Had the ATM not been situated in the hotel,our son would have had to leave the premises,walk past the taxi rank adjacent to Hornsby railway station,and then proceed for another 200-300 metres to where a bank ATM is available to withdraw money so he could continue playing the poker machines.According to transaction details provided by his own bank,this would have occurred on a number of occasions.
- The presence of ATMs in gambling venues has nothing to do with customer safety as claimed by the hotel and club industry and everything to do with maximising their profits and increasing government revenue.Their removal from gambling venues should be given the highest priority.
- There is no doubt in my mind that the fact that our son could beggar himself by walking a few metres from poker machine to ATM under the one roof was a significant contributor to his death-which has ruined a number of lives.It is not just the gambler who pays for his addiction.
- The liquor and gambling industries have much to answer for as do compliant governments,perhaps most of all.Their greed must not be allowed to contribute to any more unnecessary misery.Surely it is the business of Government to protect as far as possile the ordinary well being of its constituents, not to cooperate with others to destroy it.
- Keith Richardson.

Keith Richardson

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