

19th February 2009

Gambling Inquiry Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to demonstrate the prominent economic and social links that Club Bondi Junction provides for our community and I ask for you to take this into account when providing your recommendations for policy development particularly relating to the social impacts of gambling for consideration by all Australian jurisdictions.

Club Bondi Junction is located in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney in NSW and was established in the 1940s. Currently we have 5,269 members and we are an RSL Sub-branch Club with 564 of its members belonging to the Sub-branch. The Sub-branch acts as a support organisation for men and women who have served or are serving in the Defence Force. Our Sub branch is prominent in providing welfare to ex-service Defence Force members and their dependents and advising on pension issues.

Club Bondi Junction's main focus is to provide a relaxed, friendly, efficient, comfortable and safe environment for our members to enjoy. The Club provides facilities and activities for all age groups and encourages young and old to join and enjoy the club. A large proportion of our membership consists of mature adults and retired senior citizens who are looking for a low cost social environment where they feel comfortable and safe. Younger people are very well catered for in this area with a wide range of local Pubs, Bars and Night Clubs but the majority of older people do not feel comfortable in many of these places and clubs such as ours are essential in fulfilling the social needs of this age group.

Club Bondi Junction provides activities to satisfy the varying interests of all our members and a comfortable and safe environment to socialise and form new friendships. The main facilities and events provided for members and guests are:

- Poker machines.
- Bar Refreshments
- Promotions

- Keno
- TAB
- Bistro Dining
- Bingo
- Live Music and Dancing
- Raffles
- Functions
- Card Games

The Club also has affiliated Sporting Bodies such as

- Indoor Bowls
- Snooker
- Darts
- Swimming
- Lawn Bowls

Club Bondi Junction is able to provide these facilities by the majority of revenue coming from our poker machines. Poker machine revenue accounts for approximately 60% of the club's total income and is an extremely important revenue stream. Our club is totally committed to responsible conduct of gaming and to ensuring our members and patrons regard gambling as an enjoyable, relaxing and exciting activity. Our staff all hold Responsible Conduct of Gaming Certificates and are trained to be caring and helpful to our patrons. Because we are a smaller club, staff and patrons become well known to each other and patrons become comfortable in airing any problems they may be having. The club is a long standing member of ClubsNSW's Club Safe program and we strictly adhere to all the legislative requirements for responsible gambling.

Club Bondi Junction serves as a significant employment provider in our area and currently employs 26 staff (8 full time, 6 part time and 12 casual) excluding caterers and cleaners. The club also provides an immense on-going commitment to our community by providing complimentary use of function rooms and facilities for many local charities and in 2008 this was to the value of \$50,760. Many of these charities and social groups would not be able to exist if it were not for the club's helping hand. Cash donations to the value of \$16,924 were also made to community organisations. The charities and organisations we have helped during 2008 are listed below:

Bear Cottage	2768.18
Club Bondi Junction Darts Club	1500.00
Club Bondi Junction Indoor Bowls Club	1500.00
Club Bondi Junction Lawn Bowls Club	1500.00
Club Bondi Junction Billiards & Snooker Club	1500.00
Club Bondi Junction RSL Swimming Club	1500.00
Tamarama Surf Life Saving Club	1000.00
Camp Quality	2050.00
Leukemia Foundation	200.00
Bondi Lions Club	200.00

Waverley Shield	297.60
Senior's Christmas Luncheon	1753.95
Matthew Talbot Homeless Services	500.00
St Charles' School Waverley	200.00
Rotary Club of Bondi Junction	454.55
	TOTAL: \$16,924.28

IN KIND DONATIONS

As part of our on-going commitment to our community Club Bondi Junction is proud to have supported the following organisations by providing complimentary use of function rooms and facilities throughout 2008.

Arthritis Foundation of NSW	2,420.00
War Memorial Hospital	20,790.00
National Servicemen's Assoc of Aust – East Suburbs Branch	3,300.00
Waverley Historical Society	3,520.00
Royal Life Saving Society	4,730.00
Bondi Chamber of Commerce	2,420.00
Probus Club of Bondi Junction	7,420.00
Probus Club of Charing Cross	4,840.00
Eastern Suburbs Branch of AAA – Speech Pathology	1,320.00
	TOTAL \$50,760.00

In 2008 Club Bondi Junction paid the following taxes and this clearly defines, that even though we are not a big club, gambling has a significant impact on government budgets.

Federal Government	\$543,796
State Government	\$338,288
Local Government	\$ 74,700
	TOTAL \$956,784

The decline in poker machine revenue in our Club in 2008 caused by higher taxes, anti smoking legislation and more people using internet gambling was 16.5% and this has left the club battling to stay viable. Needless to say, further regulation for clubs in an already over regulated industry will see many great clubs such as ours having to close their doors. I understand the scope of the inquiry is to help shape government action to tackle problem gambling but, I feel, additional legislation involving more cost would be devastating to Club Bondi Junction and other such clubs while ignoring the underlying mental health factors that drive problem gambling. I encourage you to please take into consideration the wonderful contribution all clubs make to the community before making your final decisions.

Yours sincerely

Sandra Dorman A.C.C.M.
Secretary Manager

