

24 March 2009

Gambling Inquiry Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
Canberra City
ACT 2601

Dear Commissioners

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission.

The Wagga RSL Club is situated in the Riverina district of NSW and was established in 1918 instigating a long association with returned servicemen. The club has currently over 15,000 members from the community where we provide various facilities and events for our members and guests such as

- Chinese restaurant
- Bistro/Grill
- Keno
- Bowling greens
- Cricket
- Free music and entertainment
- TAB
- Meeting rooms
- Gaming machines
- Function rooms
- Free pool and snooker
- Free courtesy bus service
- Childrens creche
- Bingo
- Free poker tournaments
- Coffee lounge

The club employs 79 staff (26 full time, 18 part time, 35 casual) as well as supporting local businesses that provide the club with all the products and services that are required for the day to day operation of the club. Wagga over the last few years has experienced the closure of a number of clubs that include Wagga City Bowling Club, Wagga Leagues Club, Wagga City Golf, and currently South Wagga Bowling Club (receiver appointed), Wagga Commercial Club (expression of interest in amalgamation). These closures have resulted in a huge demand being placed on the remaining clubs in Wagga to provide and maintain community assets and services to the large number of organizations that would struggle to survive without help. Over the last three years Wagga RSL has contributed over \$550,000 to a large number of organizations which include

- Family Link
- Micah House (Accommodation for homeless men)
- The Peppers (Drug rehabilitation centre)
- Belling Park Community Group
- Willans Hill School (Special needs school)
- Mission Australia
- Kurrajong Waratah (Special needs)
- Wagga Wagga Family Support Service

- Wagga Mountain Bike Club
- Reel is Real (Local short film festival)
- Wagga Kangaroos Rugby League Club
- Southern Sports Academy
- Wagga RSL Cricket Club
- Riverina Conservatorium of music
- Wagga School Of Arts Community Theatre
- Gearstick Theatre
- Riverina School Of Strings
- Henwood Park Soccer Club
- South Wagga Sports & Bowling Club
- Group 9 Referees Association
- Relay For Life
- South Wagga Warriors Softball Club
- The Action Awareness Group (TAAG)
- Wagga Field Archers
- Wagga Base Hospital-Childrens Ward
- Linden Place (Counseling service)
- Legacy Club Of Wagga
- Free Room Hire (organizations)
- Lake-Lagoon Fun Run
- St Johns Ambulance Australia
- East Wagga Netball Club

On top of all the above organizations the Wagga RSL club has contributed over a 12 year period to the RSL Remembrance Village @ \$30,000 a year along with purchasing a house for the local Sub Branch and supporting them financially with day to day running expenses. The Wagga RSL also takes great pride in fostering the spirit and heritage of the Anzac traditions through Anzac day, Operation Care, Kokoda Youth Challenge along with assisting defence personnel to move back in to civilian jobs. Poker machines are a very important revenue stream to the club industry that allows clubs to provide to the local community with donations, sporting contributions and sponsorship of special organizations that otherwise would find it difficult to survive.

The Wagga RSL are active members and supporters of the RSL & Services Club Association, Clubs NSW and Betsafe. All Wagga RSL Club staff are trained and certified in the Responsible Conduct of Gaming as well as taking part in the CLUB SAFE program that is administered by clubs NSW. The Wagga RSL Club has forged strong links with local gambling and financial organizations namely Wagga Wagga Family Support Services and Mission Australia which both receive funding from the Wagga RSL Club.

M. McGann

Regards
Mick McGann
Gaming Manager.