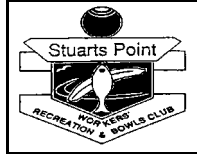


STUARTS POINT WORKERS RECREATION & BOWLS CLUB LTD

A.C.N. 001 039 505
A.B.N. 39 001 039 505



40 Ocean Avenue PO Box 23 STUARTS POINT 2441
Phone (02) 65690644 Fax (02) 65690591 Email: spwrbc@sptel.net.au

PRESIDENT: Ron Hayter

SECRETARY MANAGER: Gary Lewis

24/03/09

Gambling Inquiry Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
Canberra City ACT 2601

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission.

A brief history of our Club.

Our Club was born on the 10th November 1959 with a meeting at Stuarts Point Hall. At that time there were about 60 houses in the village. John Cooper and Arthur Krumin sold debentures at 5 pounds each to raise capital for the clubhouse. They were the Clubs first President and Secretary respectively. Sadly both men died in 1961(John on his way to Grafton brewery on Club business).

A block was purchased from Walter Conn at " a very reasonable price ". The principal workers of the area at that time were fisherman and banana growers. Their symbols became our logo. The original club was built in 1960 with the official opening being on 04/02/61.

Over the past 50 years the Stuarts Point Workers Recreation & Bowls Club Ltd has become an integral part of the community through good times and bad.

At the present time the Club employs 12 people all locals, not to mention the flow on employment that is generated from our meat raffles, bingo etc.

We also provide free meeting room facilities for local groups such as SPADCO and the Stuarts Point Players as well as the local branch of the RSL who also hold their Anzac Day ceremonies here free of charge.

Poker Machines and gambling services accounted for over 40% of the Clubs revenue in the FY 2007/08. To put it simply the club would not exist without income from gambling.

This would see the closure of our two magnificent grass bowling greens, which are the best on the north coast but cost over \$80,000 per year to maintain. We also sponsor and support over a dozen local sporting and community groups and individuals including:

- Stuarts Point Little Athletics
- Eungai Pre-school
- Eungai Public School
- Westpac Rescue Helicopter
- Macksville Hospital
- Yarrahappini Bush Fire Brigade
- Cancer Council Daffodil Day
- Leukaemia Foundation- Shave for a Cure
- Trial Bay Coastal Patrol
- Stuarts Point Players
- The Developing Foundation
- Stuarts Point Public School

However with Gambling comes responsibility. This is emphasised by our responsible gambling commitment. We are a member of Club Safe and operate a self-exclusion program that is used by our members when required. All our staff members hold Responsible Conduct of Gaming Certificates.

In summary poker machine revenue is a vital revenue stream for the Stuarts Point Workers Recreation & Bowls Club Ltd. Without it the Club would cease to exist and 12 jobs would be wiped out along with the social facilities for our 1200 members and the thousands of tourists that visit our Club each year.

Regards,

Gary Lewis CCM
Secretary Manager