

**Productivity Commission
Public Inquiry into Gambling 2009
PokieWatch.org 2nd Submission**

1. The Report of Professor Harrigan

This report was provided during my submission to the Commission. I have emailed a copy of same to Ross Ferrar of the Gaming Technologies Association. It is now attached to this submission.

I met with Mr Ferrar at his office in Sydney on 17 December 2009 and requested PAR Sheets and other relevant information so that Professor Harrigan could provide better informed observations relevant to machines in Australian environment. The requested information has not been provided.

2. Submission of Gaming Technologies Association

Please refer to pages 20-23 of their submission and the verbal submissions of Mr Ferrar transcribed on pages 732-733 and 744-746 of the Canberra session.

The lower amounts mentioned by Mr Ferrar seem to underline that, on average, Australian pokie gamblers bet well under the \$1 per button push. This adds weight to a finding that the \$1 per button push would not affect recreational gamblers.

It should be noted that implementation of Professor Harrigan's report would not impede the development of any gaming features i.e. the entertainment value. In essence, his report calls for reducing volatility by reducing cash won or lost and increasing frequency of wins.

I also suggested the addition of 1.25 seconds (or less) to the mechanical spin cycle to a uniform 3.5 seconds. This is the existing South Australian standard.

3. Factual Misstatement in the submission of ALH Group – DR340

Page 4 of the submission of the ALH Group provides as follows:

“ATMs are already away from and out of sight of gaming rooms as part of current guidelines.”

The ALH Group has been characterised as a joint venture 75% owned by Woolworths and 25% owned by interests associated with Mr Bruce Mathieson. At the annual general meeting of Woolworths Limited, held on 26 November 2009, Chairman James Strong made the following statement;

“In terms of the gaming room there are very strict rules about keeping ATMs out of sight.”

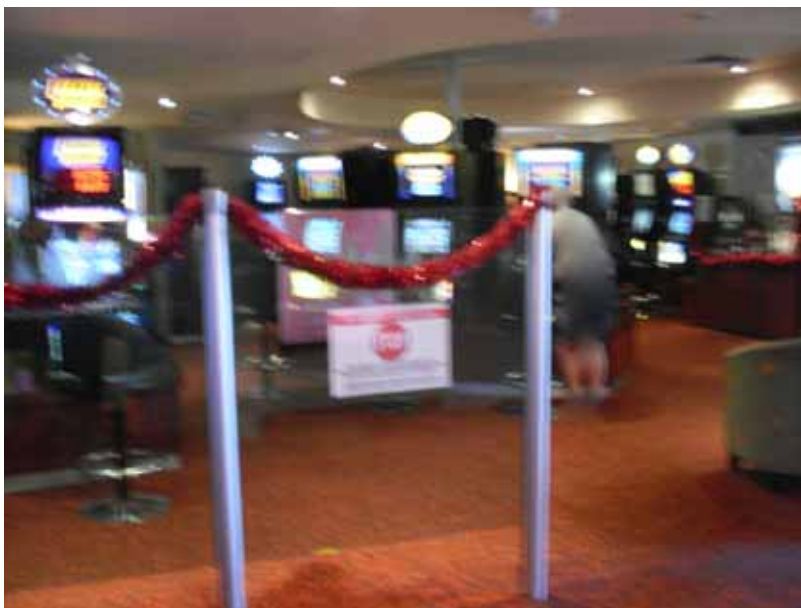
Both statements are untrue. At the Woolworths' AGM I addressed both shareholders and the board of directors and stated that Mr Strong's statement was untrue.

The 1st PokieWatch.org submission details many instances where ATMs are visible from inside the pokie room. In every instance, these particulars have been publicly detailed on the PokieWatch.org website.



While it has not been possible to review each associated Woolworths venue since the closure of the Commission's public sessions, I instigated an inspection of the Woolworths' associated Rose & Crown pokie pub located in Elizabeth, South Australia. This inspection was carried out on 30 December 2009.

At this venue, the ATM is located in the same room as the pokies, divided by a glass partition. The ATM is visible to gamblers. Please note the lighted sign over the ATM attracts attention to its location. Also note the large poker gambling poster next to the ATM.



The 2nd photograph was taken from the ATM and reinforces how visible the ATM is for pokie gamblers.

Additionally, the child play area of green yellow and red is visible through the bar in the top photograph. Exterior

advertising at this venue, located near a shopping mall, promotes the play area. While children may not be allowed in the pokie area itself, my opinion, from my own inspection, is that there is exposure to pokie gambling due to the open nature of the entrance to the pokie area at this venue. For details please refer to: <http://www.pokiewatch.org/page/The+Rose+%26+Crown+Hotel>

Given this false statement about ATMs, my submission is that little weight should be given to the facts and the suggestions made in the ALH Group document. A copy of this submission will be emailed contemporaneously to the chief counsel of Woolworths Limited.