

11 Dinsdale St.,
Albert Park 321
2.11.98.

Productivity Commission,
Gambling Inquiry.

Dear Sir,

I base this submission on the Crown Casino in Melbourne. It appears to have received preference and favourable treatment from the State Government. It was built with great extravagance and to a excessive size to attract wealthy Asian gamblers. They appeared for a short time but with the Asian depression and the glut of Casinos in Australia and the region they have largely disappeared. So the management are targeting migrant groups, elderly citizens groups and young people.

Businesses and entertainment in the Casino have had a bad effect on similar establishments in the City of Melbourne.

The Government is doing its utmost to attract international events to the City of Melbourne at tax payers expense in the hope that visitors will come and also visit the Casino. The tax obtained from gambling is not being used to benefit the people of the State. Education, Health and Human Services for example are being drastically reduced. Neither is sufficient help being given to those who have become addicted to gambling many can ill afford it and are reduced to crime and begging. Instead the tax is being used to finance bigger and better venues to attract international events for example the Commonwealth Games and the Grand Prix.

The Casino and Big Events do not attract the kind of tourists who come to experience Australia's unique Flavour. This kind of tourist tends to stay away from Crowds. For example Tourist numbers are down in March when the Grand Prix is held.

The Casino's pleading hard times is being granted concessions by the State Government. including the possibility of more gambling facilities. The Contract prevents any competition unlike any other business which is forced to compete and stand or fall on merit.

The Melbourne Casino is being bailed out by an already extremely wealthy man who does not seem to pay his fair share of tax for the running of the Country and is now offering to save the Casino on his own terms more profit less tax more gaming machines.

There is world wide evidence that Casinos attract criminals. Australia has sufficient problems with out adding this.

Yours faithfully,

N. Ward (Mrs)

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