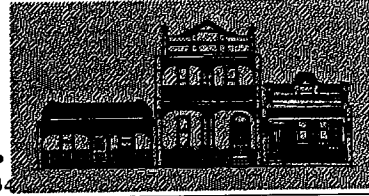


## The Carlton Residents Association Inc.

A00343



# Fax

<b>To:</b> Attention Geraldine Martisius Productivity Commission	<b>From:</b> Sue Chambers
<b>Fax:</b> 02 6240 3311	<b>Date:</b> 25 November 1998
<b>Phone:</b> 02 6240 3311	<b>Pages:</b> 1
<b>Re:</b> Gambling Inquiry	<b>CC:</b>

The Carlton Residents Association welcomes the opportunity to comment on the impact of gambling on our community. We have a major concern about any increase in gaming in the area, and would prefer a reduction.

In response to community concern about the growing numbers of gaming venues in shopping strips, State Government in Victoria introduced Amendment (S69), with the intention to prohibit new gaming venues in these strips. A further Amendment S70 invited Councils to nominate whether the ban should apply to "all, part or none of" each shopping strip. In response, the City of Melbourne identified strip shopping centres and existing hotels and clubs within these strips (Mr S. McGurn to Mr Peter Bettess, 5 August, 1998). Included on the list were 17 premises that hold General Class 1 liquor licences. These premises could, under Amendment S70, apply for approval to have gaming machines to occupy 25% of their gross floor space. Of those 17 premises, 12 are located in the Lygon Street, Carlton shopping precinct. Already there are three existing gaming venues in Lygon Street. In the adjacent lanes and streets, residences surround the Lygon Street Shopping precinct. The intensive restaurant activity in the area already compromises the amenity for those living in the area. The prospect of more gaming premises goes against the spirit of the S69 Amendment, and is thus anomalous.

Our Association has more than 100 members who are residents in Carlton. The use of gaming machines in Lygon Street is not a priority with our members: in fact it is the opposite. We would prefer a more balanced mix of retail and restaurant premises along the length of the Lygon Street shopping strip which would support the needs of the many residents coming into the area to live. There is also a broader concern that in the Carlton community there is a high number of students and low-income families living in government housing who may spend more money than is wise on gaming machines and gambling. Visitors to Carlton are the other main group that is attracted to premises with gaming machines and gambling. Unfortunately, large numbers of visitors put pressure on car parking in the area and increase the risk of antisocial behaviour such as graffiti, rubbish, car vandalism, syringes left in lanes, and late night noise as people return to cars. These problems are of current concern and are the subject of a Safety Plan for Carlton being developed by Council. The concentration of premises supporting gambling also detracts from the development and engagement in other sporting and recreational activities that would better support the development of a more stable Carlton community for all groups of residents.

Our preference would be to contain the number of gaming machines in shopping strip contexts to meet the needs of residents in the area. Residents' needs could be ascertained by survey rather than by "what the market will stand". Local governments should be the responsible authority for determining the location of gaming machines in accordance with the Council's strategic plan. This would also involve Council being responsible for determining the community's response to any planning application relating to gaming. Negative effects on participating residents, as well as residents affected by patrons of gaming premises, should be handled at a local government level with financial assistance from State Government.

We look forward to reading your final report.  
Yours sincerely

Susan M Chambers  
President

**The Carlton Residents Association Inc. A0034345G**

244 Faraday St Carlton 3053 Australia

Telephone +61 3 9349 1558 Fax +61 3 9349 1526 Email [carltonresidents@coolabah.com](mailto:carltonresidents@coolabah.com)

<http://www.coolabah.com/carltonresidents/>