

**FINANCIAL COUNSELLORS ASSOCIATION OF W.A. INC.**  
**33 Moore Street**  
**East Perth WA 6004**

**Ph: 9325 1617**  
**Fax: 9325 7061**

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9 December 1998

Gambling Enquiry  
Productivity Commission  
P O Box 80  
Belconnen  
ACT 2616

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Pokies in Pubs**

At the November meeting of the F.C.A.W.A. a decision was made to write to you in regard to the above issue for Western Australia.

After consultation with our members we would like to make the following points.


- Poker machines at present in W.A. are only legally operated in Burswood Casino. The Casino has its own Act of Parliament, therefore pokies in pubs are not covered by any specific legislation.
- W.A. is the only state which does not allow pokies in pubs and clubs. The S.A. premier is on record as lamenting the fact that they were ever introduced into his state because of the detrimental effect on lower income people.
- Feedback from the financial counsellors in Victoria, Queensland and S.A. state that an increasing percentage of their clients now have gambling problems. This requires specialist gambling counsellors and support services, which suggest the social costs in these states has not been taken into account prior to their decision to introduce.
- W.A. should not have to rely on tax from gambling to secure revenue. Our Lotteries Commission system is the best in the country, because we have not imported the problem of pokies, which have shown that less community dollars are directed to existing charitable agencies.

- Financial counsellors in W.A. have already seen the effect of pokies on people's lives from clients who have left these states to avoid them.

For these reasons we are against the introduction of pokies into Western Australia.

If you require clarification of any of the above, please contact Pam Richardson on (08) 9821 1304 or Shelly Lester on (08) 9442 9569.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Stephenson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Executive of F.C.A.W.A.