

SUBMISSION ON AUSTRALIA'S GAMBLING INDUSTRIES  
PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION

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(please excuse this paper and structure of submission written  
in haste while on holidays!)

I speak, through experience, in my submission, of the motivation  
of some poker-machine gamblers, and of the apparent dishonesty  
of operators of some gambling venues.

If there should be a special category for my submission  
it would come under "the poker-machine gambler by default,"  
and/or "the cheating, greedy Star City Casino (Sydney) (and  
some other venues).

Loneliness seems to be a reason for many pokie-players,  
especially women, according to my own survey of players,  
friends and family. I call these players, including myself,  
poker-machine players by default.

(I write here on their behalf also.)

I have always believed those perched on stools  
staring like zombies at spinning coloured pictures were

pathetic and low in intelligence to be so seduced by such greedy poker-machines. That is until 5 years ago when I lost my professional position as adult educator through unjust circumstances.

It was then I found the comfort and distraction of these machines and was able to lose some of my pain and loss in attempting to avoid another kind of loss through 'chance' in gambling.

The colourful "bandits" quickly seduced me but never controlled me. I am not an addict (going months without gambling and not missing it), but I freely choose the soothing ambience of the casino or club with its soft lighting, gaudy 'whiz-bangs' and bright colours, and the welcome music heralding the sought-after win!

Added to this is the sense of security it afforded me as I unsocially sought anonymity among the anonymous.

(I mix the tenses above as I move to past tense. I no longer gamble).

I enjoyed it until the last twelve months (or 6 visits) at ~~the~~ Star City Casino, Sydney, which appears to be anticipating a drop in revenue through proposed increased demands by Govt for greater accountability from <sup>the</sup> gambling industry, by draining our every dollar very quickly.

3.

An example of this is seen in my own recent experience at Star City, when I lost \$600 on three occasions, (i.e. \$1800), each \$600 gone in less than 2 hours; \$1,020 lost in five hours, another \$950 lost in three hours, and \$1000 lost in 4½ hours.

To lose this I was only playing 45c or 90c per spin. Very little return was granted during that time. Almost always several \$50 had to be inserted into the poker-machine before getting any return at all. (Once upon a time a pay was always granted well within \$50 outlay.)

On two occasions I plied the poker-machine with \$500 straight without the main feature coming up once. In these two moments of madness, using good money to redeem bad, I realised the fun of playing, or the means of entertainment were figments of the imagination.

I realised the gambling industry was itself out of control as it led me to be, in these 2 instances!

This is dishonest manipulation of the poor fool gambler looking for a little fun - and represents contempt for the gambler from Star City Casino.

Subsequently I have lost almost \$30,000 over six years gambling - all taken from superannuation set aside for a home!

I am too embarrassed to give my name - and too ashamed! I am a female, single, middle aged, intelligent, well-educated - and not greedy. In spending more on gambling (at each outing) than I planned, I am also very stupid!

### Summary.

- ① Gambling venues should pay returns before \$50 to \$500, plus, outlays.
- ② The social problem of loneliness in the community should be addressed.
- ③ Star City Casino, as the worst gambling venue of all should be monitored closely for dishonest practices and poor attitude to patrons.
- ④ All gambling venues have become greedy and take much more of the gamblers' dollars than in the past, and need close monitoring.

Yours sincerely  
 The ex-gambler concerned  
 for all.  
 (Southern Highlands NSW)