

Facts and Figures – Auckland City

Pokie machines are causing harm to Auckland, not just to individuals with gambling problems but our whole community.

Gambling is in oversupply:

- Over **\$16 billion** was gambled in New Zealand in 2008 - **\$38 million a day**.
- **\$938 million** was lost on pokies outside casinos in 2008 (this was the same amount spent on the entire NZ Police Force).
- Auckland has **1451** gaming machines in **110** venues (excluding Skycity casino that has additional 1647 machines).
- More than **\$88 million** was spent on pokies in Auckland in the last 12 months.
- Almost **\$241,000** is lost each day on pokies in Auckland.
- Auckland currently has a density of one machine per 215 people over 18.

How do pokie machines affect our communities?

- Machines are most likely to be sited in vulnerable communities. Auckland has **49%** of pokie machines in **poor areas** (NZ deprivation index 8-10).
- Prevalence studies indicate that approximately **8093** people in Auckland could be problem gamblers and **56,651** people could be directly affected from others problem gamblers in Auckland.
- There has been a significant increase in new problem gambling clients receiving face-to-face intervention services in Auckland City, particularly in comparison to the other TLA's.
- **10,000** people in New Zealand committed illegal activities due to their gambling in the last year.
- The latest New Zealand research indicates that pokies result in net loss of economic output, employment, and household income.
- Gambling harm includes poor parenting, family violence, crime, imprisonment, family breakdown, suicide, child neglect, poverty, business failure, bankruptcy, unemployment and poor physical and mental health.
- One in five regular pokie players has a gambling problem. Approximately 85% of problem gambling is attributed to pokies (outside of casinos).

Community funding:

- There is no good evidence of decline in community funding as a result of sinking lid policies. Record amounts of money were distributed in recent years. The Department of Internal Affairs report that fewer operators should mean that overall costs go down, there are economies of scale and a good return to the community.
- Currently Pokie Trusts give over \$20 million a year to horse racing prize money and each year use around \$150 million (in admin costs) to distribute around \$350 million. A fairer and more efficient system could mean greater returns to the community.

By keeping the existing sinking lid policy, Council can limit the harm caused by gambling and in doing so help to protect the health of some of its most vulnerable citizens.