



To the Victorian Commission for Gaming and Liquor Regulation
GPO 1988,
Melbourne 3001
Via email: contact@vcqlr.vic.gov.au

18 November 2016

Dear Commissioners

Re: Application by the Doxa Social Club for a licence to install 20 additional EGMs at the Meeting Place, 315-321 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne

Women's Health West does not support the above application to install additional EGMs at the Meeting Place in Melbourne. We recommend the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation declines the application for an extension of their gaming licence.

Women's Health West has actively contributed to the health, safety and wellbeing of women in the western region of Melbourne since 1988, through a combination of direct family violence service delivery, research, health promotion, community development, capacity building, group work and advocacy. Our core business includes the development and implementation of strategies to prevent, intervene and respond to the homelessness, ill-health, dislocation and trauma facing women and children who experience family violence.

The socioeconomic costs of problem gambling, caused by EGMs, are related to a loss of economic productivity, poor mental health and wellbeing, tobacco and alcohol use disorders, relationship dysfunction and conflict, financial debts and loss of economic participation and criminal activity. In addition, where men control economic decisions and deprive women of financial resources in intimate partner relationships due to gambling this is a form of economic abuse and family violence (VicHealth, 2016). Restricting women's financial independence can also reduce their capacity to leave violent men.

Problem gambling places a significant burden on existing health inequities and social services and for this reason we recommend that the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation declines the application for an extension of their gaming licence.

Yours sincerely

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