



Victorian Commission for Gaming and Liquor Regulation
GPO 1988
Melbourne 3001
Via email: contact@vcglr.vic.gov.au
9 October 2018

Dear Commissioners

Re: Licensing application for 22 additional poker machines at the Altona RSL in the City of Hobson's Bay

Women's Health West does not support the application to install additional electronic gaming machines at the Altona RSL. We recommend the Victorian Commission for Gaming and Liquor Regulation decline the application.

Women's Health West has actively contributed to the health, safety and wellbeing of women in the western region of Melbourne since 1988. 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.

Electronic gaming machines cause and exacerbate significant socioeconomic and health problems for communities and especially for women. They contribute to a loss of productivity, poor mental health and wellbeing, tobacco and alcohol misuse, relationship dysfunction, indebtedness and criminal activity. Gambling can exacerbate economic abuse and family violence (VicHealth, 2016) and limit women's financial independence, reducing their capacity to leave violent men and to fully participate in all aspects of society.

Problem gambling exacerbates existing health inequities and further burdens social services. For these reasons we recommend that the Victorian Commission for Gaming and Liquor Regulation declines the application for an increase in the number of gaming machines at Altona RSL.

Yours sincerely,

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