



Wyndham City Council
PO Box 197, Werribee,
Victoria 3030
Via email: mail@wyndham.vic.gov.au
20 December 2019

Dear Councillors,

Re: Licensing application for 80 poker machines at 231 Leakes Road, Truganina in the City of Hobson's Bay

Women's Health West does not support the application to install 80 electronic gaming machines at the proposed entertainment and commercial complex in Truganina. We recommend Wyndham City Council declines 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 Wyndham City Council declines the application for 80 gaming machines at the proposed entertainment and commercial complex in Truganina.

Yours sincerely,

Louise Falconer
Head of Evidence
Women's Health West

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