



Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation
Level 3/12 Shelley St, Richmond
VIC 3121
7 February 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Licensing application for 60 poker machines at the Mt Atkinson Hotel in the City of Melton

Women's Health West does not support the application to install 60 electronic gaming machines at the proposed entertainment and commercial complex in Truganina. We recommend the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR) 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 VCGLR declines the application for 60 gaming machines at the proposed entertainment and commercial complex in Truganina.

Yours sincerely,

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Head of Evidence
Women's Health West

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