

Maribyrnong City Council Gambling Fact Sheet



Gambling

Gambling is a serious social policy issue in the City of Maribyrnong with many residents and communities affected. This fact sheet gives you a snapshot of the data and evidence, and how Council responds to this important issue.

[Maribyrnong City Council Gambling Policy](#)

The objectives of the Council Gambling Policy are to reduce harm and minimise the negative impacts to problem gamblers and their families; and vulnerable communities where significant and cumulative gambling losses contribute to poor socio-economic outcomes.

[Local Planning Policy for Electronic Gaming Machines – Amendment C115](#)

This policy gives Council the power to regulate the movement and location of Pokies in the municipality.

[Gambling Advocacy Action Plan 2015/16](#)

This plan aims to enhance Council's advocacy efforts in minimising harm from gambling in the community. It includes advocacy actions and community awareness programs that Council supports.

[Alliance for Gambling Reform](#)

The Alliance is a national campaign that focuses on the harm caused by gambling in local communities by advocating for a maximum \$1 bet for pokie machines. The Alliance has released the film Ka—Ching! Pokie Nation, which highlights how the design of pokies encourages gambling addiction. Council strongly supports the work of the Alliance.

Gambling in Victoria is made up of electronic gaming machines or pokies, Crown Casino, Racing and Sports Betting, Lotteries and Club Keno.

Fast facts about Maribyrnong

- Maribyrnong has the third highest EGM losses per adult in Victoria after Greater Dandenong and Brimbank (VCGLR 2014)
- There were losses of \$52.9 million from pokies from nine venues in 2014-15 in the City of Maribyrnong. (VCGLR 2015)
- In July this year, \$4.47 million was put through pokie machines in the City of Maribyrnong. (VCGLR 2014)
- An average of 41% of losses from pokies comes from problem gambling. (Productivity Commission 2010)

For more information, please contact :
Social Policy and Partnerships
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Case study: The impact of gambling addiction

For some people gambling can become an addiction, with serious impact on families, relationships, health and wellbeing.

Jack, who is now 29 began gambling when he was 18 years old.

'Starting from this year alone 2014, I probably lost over \$50k on sportsbets, online poker and casino. The one thing I don't touch is the pokies. As for the others, I keep thinking that I got an edge over the game if I do my homework. For example; team stats, weather forecast, stadium size etc. End of the day, it's always the same result, you win some but LOSE BIG.'

'Two months ago I lost \$6k in 30mins at the casino and told myself never do this again. I remembered that feeling where your body starts shaking, hands are sweating and unable to sleep the whole night. Its a dark feeling, but like any other addict the feeling goes away within a week and I ended up starting the whole cycle again.'

Jack is worried that he will lose everything. His successful business is starting to sink and he is afraid to tell his wife for fear of divorce.

Source: As told by Jack on the [Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation website](#).

Braybrook Hotel Gaming Case

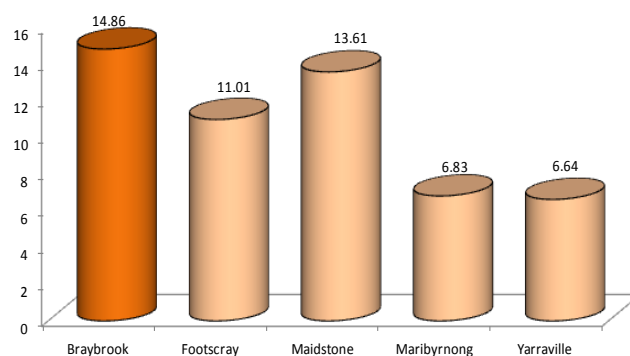
In 2013, the owners of the Braybrook Hotel applied to the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR) to redevelop the venue and install an extra 19 EGMs.

Council successfully opposed the application, citing the high levels of social and economic disadvantage in Braybrook and the high levels of losses from EGMs. Some of key statistics used in Council's submission to the VCGLR included:

- Braybrook is the fourth most disadvantaged suburb in metropolitan Melbourne based on the SEIFA index
- Losses are higher in Braybrook than other suburbs in the municipality, with \$14.6 million in 2014-15. (VCGLR 2015)
- An average of losses per pokie Machine in Braybrook is \$184,000 per year. (VCGLR 2015)

The owners of the Braybrook Hotel appealed the VCGLR decision at VCAT and also modified their application to 14 EGMs. In September 2014, VCAT overturned the VCGLR decision and approved the application. Council's opposition to this application reflects our ongoing commitment to minimising harm from gambling in the City of Maribyrnong

EGM Losses by suburb in the City of Maribyrnong 2014-15 \$m



Further information

[Gamblers Help on line](#)

[Dare to Connect North West](#)

[Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation](#)

[MAV Enough Pokies Campaign](#)

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