

My submission to the Inquiry relates to the placement of poker machines to give maximum benefit to the local community.

The issue of problem gamblers needs to be addressed as a priority.

My main concern however is that the government revenue raised from poker machines needs to be put back into the community from which it came. I would like to see gaming machines removed from hotels and not clubs that raise revenue for community activities. This income is a vital revenue opportunity for clubs struggling to survive and must be linked to local community projects. I have seen and enjoyed the benefits that the RSL Club at Barham NSW has returned to the local community through the development of the local lake and park. Creating and maintaining community facilities needs to be a high priority.

Any expenditure against revenue raised from gaming machines needs to be clearly identified as succinct projects and the output and costs clearly identified. I encourage the senate committee to use this inquiry to raise this matter with the States to achieve more open and accountable reporting of this expenditure.

Thank you

Helen Rees