

# THE POKIES: BEFORE YOU PRESS THE BUTTON, KNOW THE FACTS



who really wins?  
how do the pokies work?  
what are my chances of winning?

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ANYONE WHO PLAYS THE POKIES

The pokies are a form of entertainment.

Sometimes people play the pokies for the wrong reasons, spending more money or time than they can afford.

If you think that you can beat the pokies, **think again.**

You cannot change the fact that the odds are stacked against you.

This booklet explains how pokies work and tells you what you can do if you have a gambling problem.

**before you press the button – know the facts**

# THE POKIES ARE THE WINNERS

Pokies are programmed so that in the end  
the machine will win.

Nothing you do changes that.

Pokies are not designed to provide you with extra  
income.

Like other forms of entertainment,  
you pay to play the pokies.

The more you play, the more you pay.

when you play the pokies, don't expect to win

# POKIES: THE FACTS

You can never predict how each play will end.

Pokies are programmed to act randomly and it makes no difference:

- ▣ the last time the machine paid out;
- ▣ anything you or someone else does to the machine;
- ▣ how much you bet or how many lines you played;
- ▣ how long you have been playing;
- ▣ past and future plays;
- ▣ the time of day.

**when you play the pokies,  
the only thing you can control is you**

# WHAT ARE MY CHANCES OF WINNING?

When playing a game like Black Rhinos, to have a 50% chance of getting five rhinos, playing one line at a time, it would take 6.7 million button presses and cost nearly \$330 000.\*

You have wins but over time you can expect that these will not cover what you put in.

Pokies are programmed to pay out less than you put into them, so the odds are you will lose.

Losing money this time doesn't increase your chances of winning next time.

\* Productivity Commission 1999, Australia's Gambling Industries Inquiry, Report No 10.

**The poker machine always has the advantage**

# WHAT IS BEING DONE TO HELP PROBLEM GAMBLERS AND ADDRESS PROBLEM GAMBLING?

The Break Even counselling network provides free, confidential, face-to-face counselling services, with funding from the South Australian Government and the gambling industry.

In addition, South Australian Government initiatives include:

- advertising and responsible gambling codes of practice,
- a problem gambling family protection orders scheme,
- legislation to reduce poker machines by 20%.

Think of what you're really gambling with

# DO YOU HAVE A GAMBLING PROBLEM?

Do you spend more time or money than you can afford?

Do you argue with family about your gambling?

Do you gamble to escape your problems?

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Leave your ATM card at home.

Set a gambling limit and stick to it.

Don't chase your losses.

Talk to a gambling counsellor.

Think of what you're really gambling with

# WHERE TO GET HELP FOR PROBLEM GAMBLING

If you think that you or someone you care about has a gambling problem, you can call the free 24 hour Gambling Helpline on – 1800 060 757.

The Gambling Helpline offers a confidential, over the phone counselling service. The Helpline can also assist you to obtain face-to-face counselling, to arrange to voluntarily bar yourself from gaming venues and the casino, and to find out about the new problem gambling family protection orders available through the Independent Gambling Authority.

Αν νομίζετε ότι εσείς ή κάποιος για τον οποίο ενδιαφέρεστε έχει πρόβλημα τζόγου, τηλεφωνήστε στη  
**ΓΡΑΜΜΗ ΒΟΗΘΕΙΑΣ ΓΙΑ ΤΟ ΤΖΟΓΟ**

**GAMBLING HELPLINE 1800 060 757**

Nếu bạn nghĩ rằng chính mình, hay người mà bạn đang quan tâm đến, đang có vấn đề về cờ bạc, hãy gọi đến:

(Đường dây giúp đỡ những người có vấn đề về cờ bạc)

**GAMBLING HELPLINE 1800 060 757**

如果你认为，你本人或你所关爱的某一个人面临着赌博的问题，请拨打  
**赌博求助热线**

**GAMBLING HELPLINE 1800 060 757**

Se pensi di avere un problema con il gioco, o che lo abbia una persona cara, telefona alla  
**(linea di soccorso per il gioco)**

**GAMBLING HELPLINE 1800 060 757**

إذا كنت تعتقد أنّ لديك أو لدى أحد الأشخاص الذين يهتمك أمرهم مشكلة المقامرة فاتصل بـ

خط المساعدة بشأن المقامرة

**GAMBLING HELPLINE 1800 060 757**

Falls Sie vermuten, dass Sie oder eine Ihnen nahe stehende Person an Spielsucht leiden, wenden Sie sich an die:

**GAMBLING HELPLINE 1800 060 757**

Jeżeli hazard jest problemem dla ciebie, lub dla kogoś bliskiego zadzwoń do

**TELEFONICZNEJ POMOCY DLA HAZARDZISTÓW.**

**GAMBLING HELPLINE 1800 060 757**



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