# #DONTBETONHEALTH
# Public forum on electronic gambling and harm

*"This state has got a very strong position of restricting gambling and restricting gaming machines of all types to the casino"*
**Colin Barnett June 2016**

*"WA Labor will always oppose further introduction of pokies and similar gaming machines in Western Australia because of the financial misery they cause"*
**Mark McGowan June 2016**

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Monday 5 August 2019

- **Gambling in Australia**
  - *What we gamble on*
  - *How much we spend*
  - *Where WA sits in mix*

- **Gambling Harms**
  - *There are many*
  - *They are far reaching*

- **Simulated Racing Machines!!!**

# Gambling is pervasive

| | NSW | VIC | QLD | SA | WA | TAS | ACT | NT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RACING & BETTIING** | 🐎 | 🐎 | 🐎 | 🐎 | 🐎 | 🐎 | 🐎 | 🐎 |
| **SPORTS BETTING** | ⚽🏀🏈 | ⚽🏀🏈 | ⚽🏀🏈 | ⚽🏀🏈 | ⚽🏀🏈 | ⚽🏀🏈 | ⚽🏀🏈 | ⚽🏀🏈 |
| **LOTTERIES** | 🎟️ | 🎟️ | 🎟️ | 🎟️ | 🎟️ | 🎟️ | 🎟️ | 🎟️ |
| **GAMBLING MACHINES** | 🎰 | 🎰 | 🎰 | 🎰 | CASINO ONLY | 🎰 | HOTELS & CLUBS | 🎰 |
| **KENO** | KENO | KENO | KENO | KENO | CASINO ONLY | KENO | KENO | KENO |
| **FOOTBALL POOLS** | ⚽ | ⚽ | ⚽ | ⚽ | ⚽ | ⚽ | ⚽ | ⚽ |
| **MINOR GAMBLNG** | BINGO | BINGO | BINGO | BINGO | BINGO | BINGO | BINGO | BINGO |
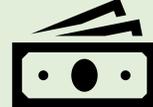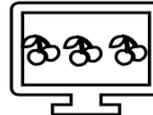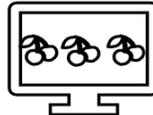
Table adapted from Australian Gambling Statistics 1991–92 to 2016–17, 34th edition Queensland Government ( 2018) Table 4  page 7

# We are world leaders (but not in good way)

$23.7bn
**National Gambling losses[1]**

$1251
**National Losses per capita**

51%*
**National gambling revenue from Electronic Gambling Machines (EGMs)**

Image Source: Louise Francis

$1.3bn
**WA Gambling losses[1]**

$683
**WA Losses per capita**

46%
**WA gambling revenue from Casino**

1. Australian Gambling Statistics 1991–92 to 2016–17, 34th edition Queensland Government (2018) ; * Excluding EGMs in casinos.

# The distribution of gambling losses (2016-2017)
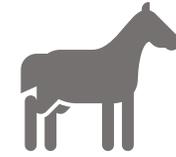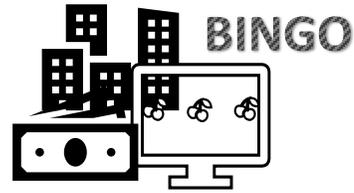
| | 🎰 BINGO | 🐴 | ⚽ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total Losses (National)** $23.7bn | $19.3bn | $3.3bn | $1.1bn |
| **Total Losses (WA)** $1.3bn | $1bn | $240m | $91m |
| **Losses per capita (National)** $1251 | $1,020 | $175 | $56 |
| **Losses per capita (WA)** $683 | $515 | $122 | $46 |

Source : Australian Gambling Statistics 1991–92 to 2016–17, 34th edition Queensland Government, 2018

# Why is gambling a public health issue

**Widely accessible**

**Expanded rapidly over the last 20 years**

**Regressive in distribution and revenue**

**Concentrates harm in disadvantaged and stressed populations**

**Causes major harm to 2%-8% of adults ~ 30% of regular users**

**Causes others many harms - incl. intergenerational transmission of poverty**
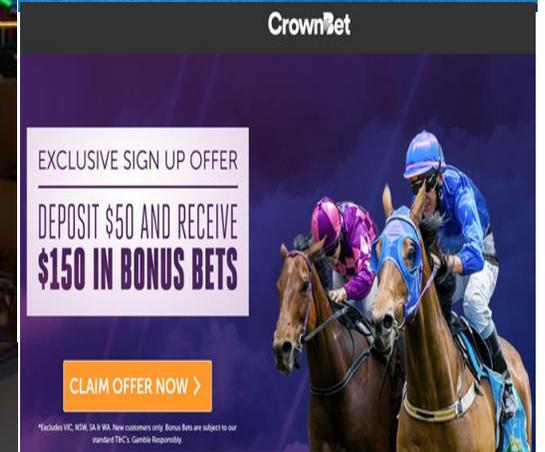
# Harms spread across broad areas



DIMENSIONS OF HARM
(classification)

TEMPORAL CATEGORY: GENERAL HARMS, CRISIS, LEGACY

FINANCIAL HARM | RELATIONSHIP DISRUPTION, CONFLICT OR BREAKDOWN | EMOTIONAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS | DECREMENTS TO HEALTH | CULTURAL HARM | REDUCED PERFORMANCE AT WORK OR STUDY | CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

LIFECOURSE, GENERATIONAL AND INTERGENERATIONAL HARM
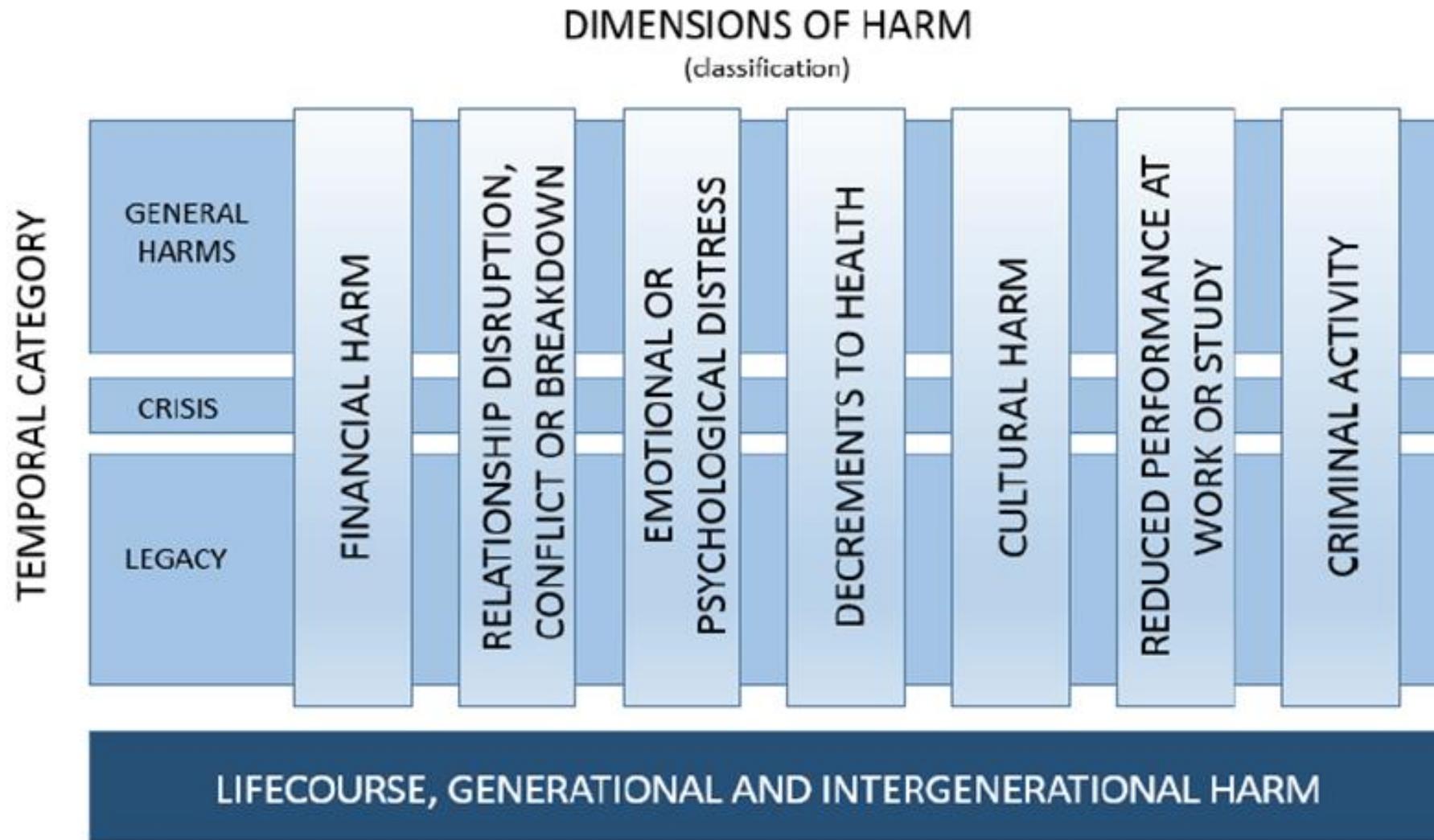
# Totalisator Agency Board

**TAB /Totalisator Agency Board:**
**Australian wide gambling outlets.**

- 'unit' wagers - multiples of 50c or $1.
- Pari-mutual betting - Dividend returned to winners in multiples of units wagered (after deductions for costs, including tax)

**Trackside: Simulated computer operated animal race**

- Odds and race displayed on video monitors.
- Wagering similar to Keno.

$234 million losses
2016-2017

17.33% of WA's Total Gambling
11.1% AUS Total TAB Losses

Australian Gambling Statistics 1991–92 to 2016–17, 34th edition Queensland Government ( 2018)
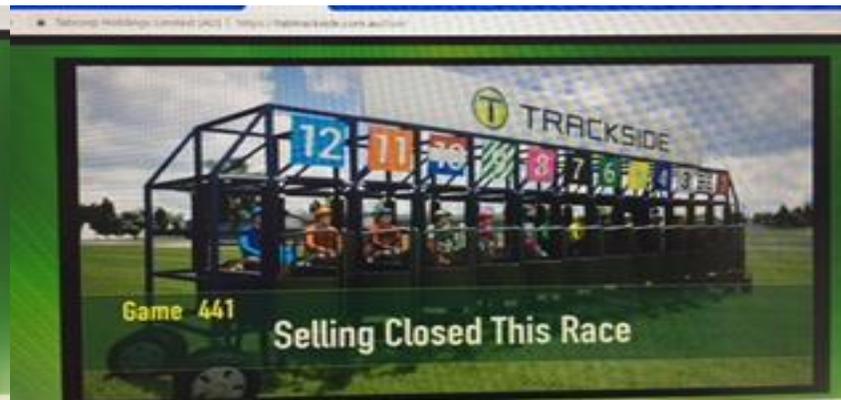
# Gambling harm close to severity of alcohol use

## Gambling Harm in Victorian Population



- Low Risk Gamblers
- Moderate Risk Gamblers
- Problem Gamblers
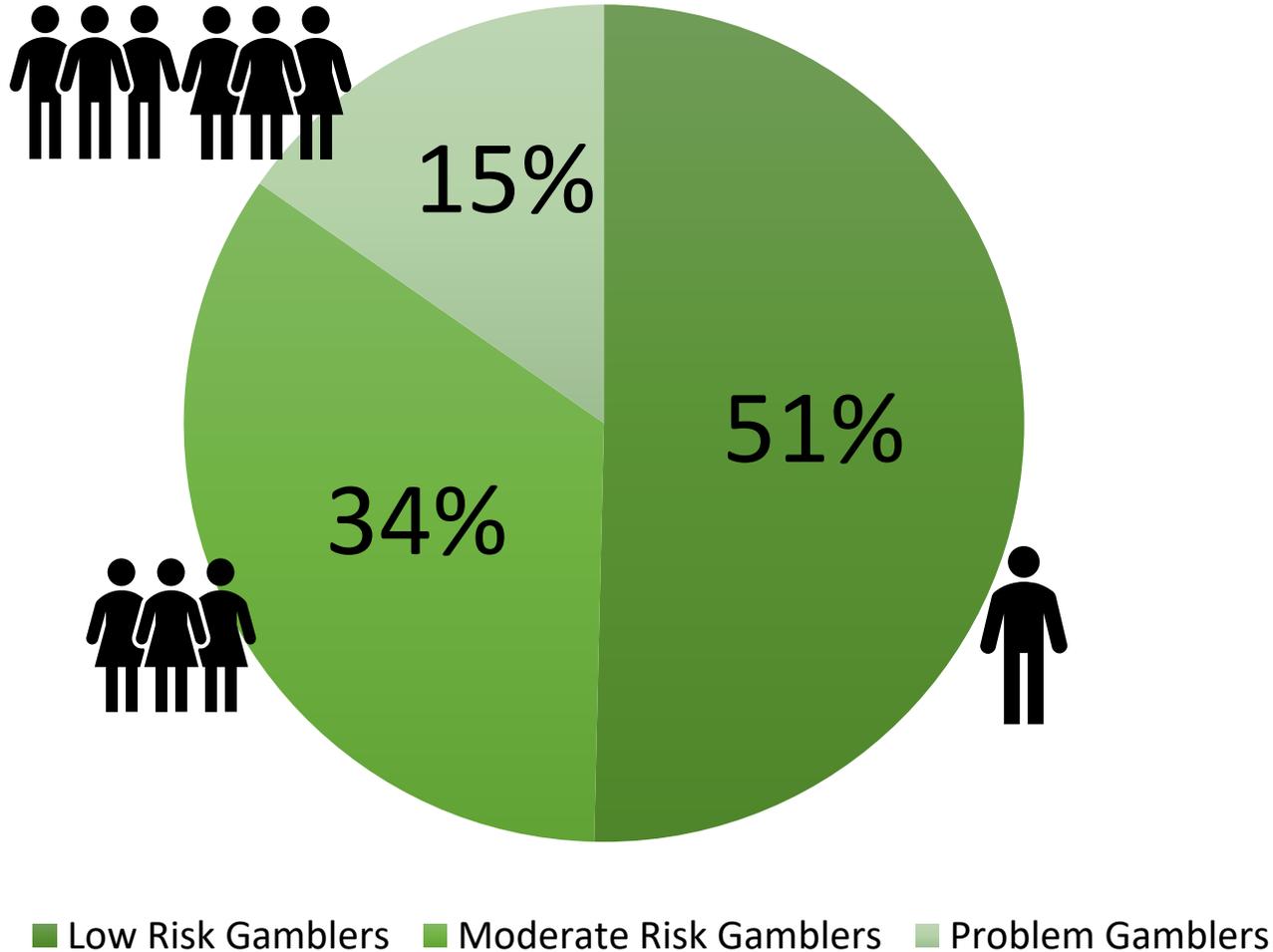
Victorian Study: Browne et al., 2016

**Most gambling harm comes from the large number of people in 'moderate'(34%) and 'low' (50%) risk groups**

**Moderate risk gambling is comparable to Moderate alcohol use disorder**

**Each problem gambler affects 6 others, each moderate risk 3 others, each low risk 1 other**

**Important to focus policy and regulation and prevention strategies across all risk categories**

Browne et al., 2016. Assessing gambling related harms in Victoria; A public Health perspective

# The argument for simulated racing machines



Image Source: Louise Francis

- **SRMs = Profitable addition to TAB sale**

- **Product not available on-line =  Competitive advantage for TAB  (Save the racing industry!)**

- **They are not electronic gambling machines**

  - *"Involves the same steps as a normal race"* i.e. form guide, fill in ticket

  - *"Time interval between simulated races will be regulated"*

  - *"Access will be regulated to hours of TAB trading hours"*

  - *"Won't be that popular … bigger issue is mobile sports betting"*

# SRMs are a form of electronic gambling

**Computer operated pictorial representation**

- **Odds and race displayed on video monitors**

- **Wagering similar to Keno.**

- **Form guide offers limited resemblance to live race information**

**Basic principles derive from EGMs**

- **Increase gambling accessibility**

- **Aim to increase event frequency – i.e. bet more often**

- **Randomisation  - non predictable outcome**

- **Time interval relatively high frequency compared to live racing**



*TAB (Disposal) Bill 2019*
*simulated race* means a game —
(a) that consists of animated images of a thoroughbred race, harness race or greyhound race; and
(b) the outcome of which is only determined by a **random number generator** that draws a set of numbers from a larger set of numbers;

# Live Racing vs Simulated Racing Machines



Image  Trackside Screen Crown Casino Perth Source: Louise Francis

| FORM GUIDE | LIVE RACE | SIMULATED RACING MACHINE |
|---|---|---|
| JOCKEY | YES | NO |
| TRAINER | YES | NO |
| TRACK HISTORY | YES | NO |
| CONDITIONS | YES | NO |
| BARRIER DRAW | YES | NO |
| RACE HISTORY | Previous Race Placing, Distance, Weight | Last 20 races 1,2,3 placing |
| WEIGHT | YES | NO |
| DISTANCE | YES | YES |
| ODDS | Variable / Linked to performance | Generic ?? |
| TIME BETWEEN NEXT RACE | Up to 40mins | 3 min 30secs |

# Example Trackside Betting Slip
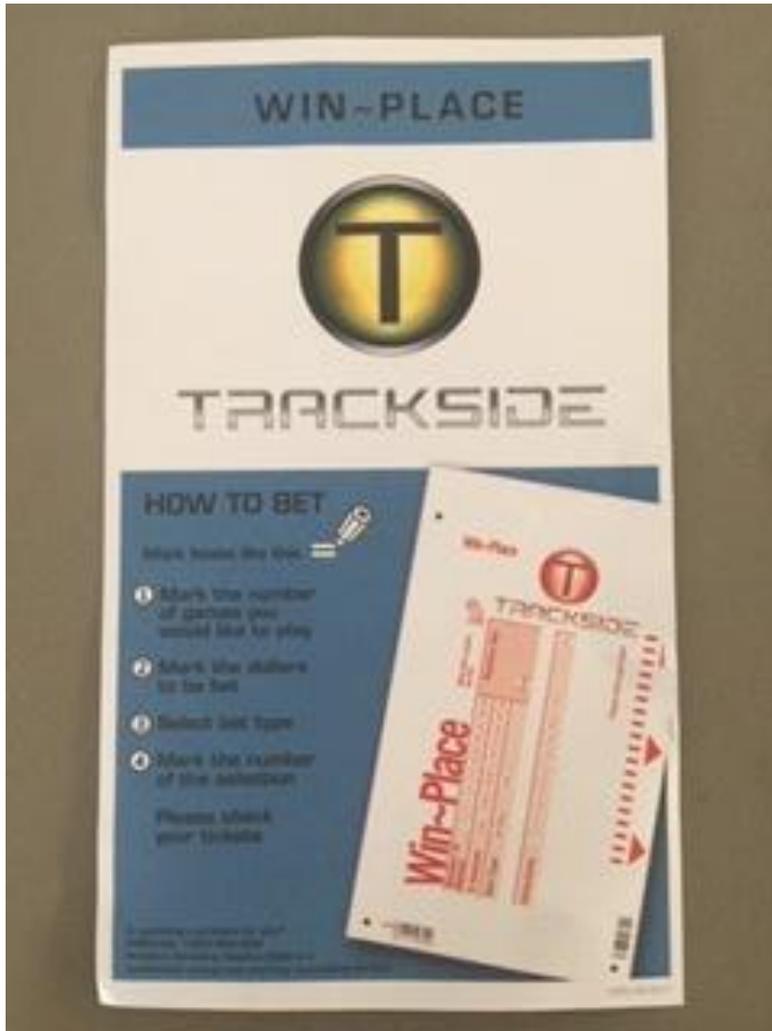


Crown Perth Trackside Betting Slip Image Source: Louise Francis

# Questions for consideration (there are others)



Image Source: Louise Francis

What provisions have been made to limit technological changes to SRMs?

What provisions have been made to restrict multiple individual SRM terminals to operate in TAB outlets and pub and club venues?

What provisions have been made to ensure loss data for SRM (from Day 1) are transparent and accessible ?

What provisions have been made to cover increased costs of gambling related harm?

# References

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# Image Sources
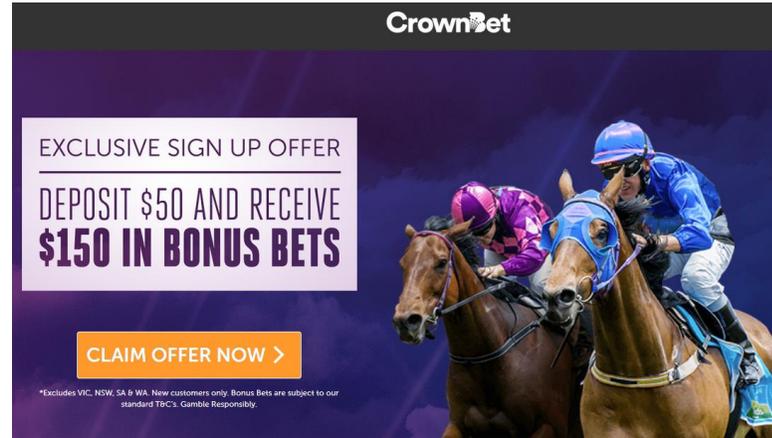
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