

# Reducing the harm from pokies – have your say!



**It's time for change! Have your say on pokies in pubs, clubs and TABs – the most harmful form of gambling in Aotearoa.**

Did you know...

**\$1 billion**

nearly \$1 billion is lost on pokies in pubs, clubs and TABs every year



Pokies are designed to be addictive and they play havoc with the reward systems in our brains?

## The Government wants to hear what you think about reducing the harm from pokies in our communities.

They are open to any useful ideas, but have suggested three areas that they want to focus on:

1. How can we make pokie venues safer (pubs, clubs, TABs)?
2. How can we make pokie machines safer?
3. How can we strengthen penalties and enforcements?

## What does PGF think?

Reducing harm in pubs, clubs, and TABs with pokies

Class 4 Trusts and Societies (the owners of pokie machines) and venue staff are responsible for supervising gambling in pubs and clubs.

- Host responsibility and harm minimisation training needs to be strengthened and delivered by experts.

A standard host responsibility policy for venues needs to be fully detailed in the Gambling (Harm Prevention and Minimisation) Regulations 2004 to ensure accountability.

There also needs to be regular auditing and inspection (e.g. minimum of every six months) of venues to ensure that host responsibility standards are being met.

The gambling environment in venues should also be changed. Why are the pokies in dimly lit rooms with no clocks?

To read more, check out our website [www.pgf.nz](http://www.pgf.nz) or

the Department of Internal Affairs' (DIA) website ([www.dia.govt.nz/reducingpokiesharm](http://www.dia.govt.nz/reducingpokiesharm))

## Reducing harm from pokie machines

Pokie machines are specifically designed to be addictive but some machine features could be changed to make them safer for players.

This could include:

- Regularly interrupting continuous playing by displaying messages around harm minimisation
- Reducing multi-row bets and maximum stakes
- Reviewing jackpot size, messaging on gaming machines, and signage.

## Reducing harm through stronger compliance

The current penalties for breaches of host responsibility just aren't tough enough. It also relies on the gambling regulator going into a venue to do an inspection and there are 1,050 venues across NZ. The resource is not available and this makes enforcement weak. We need stronger infringement fees to ensure harm minimisation regulations are observed.

## How can my voice be heard?

Make a submission before **28 April 2022**.

- Fill out our simplified feedback form and we will submit your response on your behalf, or
- Complete the feedback form on the DIA website – [www.dia.govt.nz/reducingpokiesharm](http://www.dia.govt.nz/reducingpokiesharm), or
- You can email your submission directly to [pokiesconsultation@dia.govt.nz](mailto:pokiesconsultation@dia.govt.nz)

## FEEDBACK FORM

# Reducing the harm from pokies

### Tick the following if you agree that:

We need much more detailed host responsibility policies that each pokie venue must follow (and be checked every six months), and staff need to be trained by an external training provider.

We need the design of pokie machines to be changed so that they are safer.

We need infringement fees for pokie venues that have broken the rules to be enforced and increased to a similar level to those for breaches to the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

### If there is one more thing you want the Government to know about pokies, it's this:

### Your personal details

(Your personal details will remain confidential)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact details: \_\_\_\_\_

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PGF Group provides free and confidential counselling and support services to anyone affected by gambling harm