



- Home
- Story contacts
- stories**
- Kick-start diet
- Meet the team
- Contact us
- Help
- Search

this site the web

Pokies to feature in court

REPORTER: Adene Cassidy
BROADCAST DATE: December 10, 2004



[Lana wants other problem gamblers to join her](#)

Lana O'Shanassy has spent more than \$1 million feeding her gambling addiction. She is broke, her marriage has been ruined and she has lost her job.

Lana now plans to take action and seek compensation.

She wants to sue the federal government and the gambling industry for her massive loss.

"If it was up to me on my own I would say let's remove poker machines altogether," she said.

In an unprecedented move, Lana has started a class action and is calling for the 300,000 gambling addicts across Australia to join her.

"I believe the casinos along with the gaming industry along with the Australian government have not done enough to address the problem," she claimed.

"There are a large numbers of people who have suffered a common loss due to a common cause which is gaming machines."

Lana's quest began when she kicked her addiction after eight years. Every month she would spend her entire pay packet, sometimes more than \$6,000 in one session, always believing she would beat the machine.

"It's hard to overcome something like that when there's a proliferation of gaming machines around you they're everywhere they're in every suburb I guess it's like an alcoholic with beer in the fridge he's going to drink it because it's accessible," said Lana.

ADVERTISEMENT

Lana said most gamblers believe they can win because of what the law states. Statutory requirement is for 87 per cent of money gambled is meant to be returned to players, but Lana claimed it is

Casey Donovan



IDOL: Sixteen-year-old Casey is ready to record her debut album.

[Watch it now...](#)

Suggest a story

Do you know of a scam that needs investigating? We want to know.

[Tell us now...](#)

Watch video



GOLF: Grace Lennon hits the ball like a pro and she is just 12 years old.

[Watch it now...](#)

Fact File: vegetables

What's the best way to cook fresh vegetables: boiled, baked, micro-waved or steamed?

[Find out here...](#)

TV Violence

not the case.

"The software is based on repeated intensity of play which means a player is spending a dollar each time the wheels are spun a varying intensity of play means one player is spending a dollar a spin, another player is spending ten dollars a spin on the same machine and over a 12 month period although the statistical average may be 87 per cent the actual dollar return can be much less," claimed Lana.

Susan Pinkerton was also an addict and while her kids were at school she would spend the day gambling.

Susan lost more than \$60,000 in three years.

"It was crazy there was no way I could win," she said.

"It's impossible to win long term but they can manipulate the pay out, they can manipulate the size of the jack pots that people get and they do that it's known in the industry that that's how they adjust to get the federally mandated 87 per cent return."

Susan is urging the industry to take some responsibility for gambling addicts and she wants her money back.

Barrister Neil Francey is no stranger to taking on some of Australia's largest corporations, including tobacco companies.

"My understanding is that poker machines are designed in such a way that exploit weaknesses on part of people who become problem gamblers," he claimed.

Neil said the gaming industry should feel concerned because class actions against them are inevitable.

**Contact : Lana O'Shanassy (02) 4872 3911, (02) 48723922
or visit <http://www.epost.net.au/aagm/>**



A high ranking policeman has blamed TV for an increase in violence.

Watch it now...