

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

- **WHO REALLY WINS ON THE POKIES?**
- **HOW DO THE POKIES WORK?**
- **WHAT ARE MY CHANCES OF WINNING?**



## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ANYONE WHO PLAYS THE POKIES.**

The pokies are simply a form of entertainment. However, sometimes people play the pokies for the wrong reasons, often 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 is a Victorian Government initiative that explains how pokies work and what you can do if you have a gambling problem.

**BEFORE YOU PRESS THE BUTTON, KNOW THE FACTS.**

## **THE POKER MACHINE IS THE WINNER.**

- **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. They are designed to make profit for others.**
- **Like other forms of entertainment, you pay to play the pokies.**
- **The more you play, the more you pay.**

**WHEN YOU PLAY THE POKIES, EXPECT TO LOSE.**

## **POKIES: THE FACTS.**

- **Each poker machine has a computer program. Poker machines are all programmed to act randomly every time you press the button.**
- **First, the poker machine takes the credits you have bet. It then randomly determines the outcome of that play.**
- **The outcome is independent of previous plays.**
- **If there is a win, you get paid credits. If not, the poker machine waits for the button to be pressed again.**

**THERE ARE NO TRICKS OR SYSTEMS  
YOU CAN USE TO OUTSMART A POKER MACHINE.**

## **POKIES: THE FACTS.**

- **You can never predict how each play will end. None of these factors makes a difference:**
  - **The last time the machine paid out.**
  - **Anything you or anyone else does to the machine.**
  - **How much you bet or how many lines you play.**
  - **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 ON THE POKIES?**

- When playing a game like *Black Rhinos*, to have a 50 per cent 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 may have smaller wins but over time you can expect that these will not cover what you put in.
- Poker machines 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.**

**The Government introduced new regulations on 1 July 2002 to bring about a more responsible gaming industry. For more information about these regulations or if you have any complaints about the conduct of gaming in Victoria, please contact the Office of Gambling Regulation.**

**Telephone: (03) 9651 3333**

**[www.ogr.vic.gov.au](http://www.ogr.vic.gov.au)**

***Greek***

*Σας παρακαλούμε να ζητήσετε από κάποιον γνωστό σας να σας το μεταφράσει ή τηλεφωνήστε στο 9209 0175.*

***Italian***

*Sei pregato/a di chiedere a qualcuno di tua conoscenza di tradurtelo o di telefonare al 9209 0176.*

***Croatian***

*Molimo vas da zatražite od poznanika da vam je prevede, ili nazovite 9209 0174.*

***Arabic***

*الرجاء الطلب من شخص تعرفه ترجمته لك أو اتصل على الرقم (03) 9209 0170.*

***Turkish***

*Lütfen tanıdığınız bir kişiden bunu size tercüme etmesini isteyiniz ya da 9209 0187 numarayı arayınız.*

***Chinese***

*請認識的人為您翻譯，或致電*

*(03) 9209-0173 (Cantonese 廣東話)*

*(03) 9209-0178 (Mandarin 普通話)*

***Vietnamese***

*Xin nhờ người nào bạn quen dịch cho bạn nghe, hoặc điện thoại cho số 9209 0188.*

**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 from 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.

If you think you or someone you care about has a gambling problem, call Gambler's Help on 1800 156 789 to arrange a free, confidential discussion. There is always someone at the end of the telephone, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**THINK OF WHAT YOU'RE REALLY GAMBLING WITH.**

**GAMBLER'S HELP™ 1800 156 789**

[www.problemgambling.vic.gov.au](http://www.problemgambling.vic.gov.au) 24 HOURS 7 DAYS

A COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND INITIATIVE

**HEARING IMPAIRED ONLY SHOULD CALL TTY 1800 777 706**