

Reducing harm from gambling in Manningham

The problem

Electronic Gaming Machine (EGM) gambling losses in Manningham in 2018/19 were \$56.4 million. According to the Alliance for Gambling Reform this is the equivalent to the cost of feeding 22,700 children for one year.

The solution

Advocate to the Victorian Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation, the Hon. Melissa Horne and the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR) to:

1. Stop issuing new poker machine licenses in Manningham.
2. Reduce the maximum opening hours for poker machine venues from 20 to 16 hours.
3. Regulate operating hours to stop venues staggering open times. This is to avoid people from going from one venue to another after one has closed.

The current situation

Population of Manningham: 125,827 (2021 Census)

Number of Electronic Gaming Machine venues in Manningham:

522 Electronic Gaming Machines (EGMs) operating across seven venues.¹

Four of which are hotels and three of which are clubs. All seven gaming venues are located to the west and centre of the municipality.²

Open hours of these venues:

Cherry Hill Tavern: 9.00am to 5.00am

Doncaster Hotel: 11.00am to 7.00am

Manningham Club: Sun to Wed: 9.00am to 12.00am, Thurs to Sat: 9.00am to 3.00am

Shoppingtown Hotel: 9.00am to 5.00am

Templestowe Hotel: 8.00am to 4.00am

Veneto Club: 9.00am to 3.00am

With these open hours there is the opportunity to access EGMs 24 hours a day seven days a week. Under current restrictions patrons could move from one venue to another within a 24-hour period without leaving Manningham.

NOTE: Yarra Valley Country Club are licensed but not currently operating electronic gaming machines.

Australians spend more on gambling per capita each year than any other country, around \$1,300 per adult.³



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Over a third of Australian adults (35% or 6.5 million people) gambled in a typical month in 2018. Gambling can result in the loss of time, money or both. Gambling losses can lead to a range of negative consequences, or gambling harms. These harms can range from financial, relationship or psychological issues to serious legal or health issues.⁴

What is gambling harm?

Gambling harm is any negative consequence experienced by an individual or members of their social network because of participation in gambling. This can be experienced on a spectrum, ranging from minor negative experiences to crises, and is not always proportionate to the amount of gambling participation.⁵ Gambling harms can include: ⁶

- relationship harm (e.g. conflict within relationships, neglect of responsibilities)
- health harm (e.g. stress, depression, reduced sleep)
- emotional/psychological harm (e.g. feelings of regret, worthlessness, failure)
- financial harm (e.g. credit card debt, reduced spending on essentials)
- work/study harm (e.g. reduced performance due to tiredness, absenteeism).

Harms relating to relationships, health and emotional/psychological wellbeing are the most-reported gambling harms. Family members, such as partners, children and parents of those who gamble, can also experience gambling harms.⁷

Our ask

Council calls on the State Government to review and reform gambling regulations:

- Stop issuing new poker machine licenses in Manningham
- Reduce the maximum opening hours for poker machine venues from 20 to 16 hours
- Regulate operating hours to stop venues staggering open times. This is to avoid people from going from one venue to another after one has closed.

¹ Manningham State of the City 2020 report.

² Gaming Policy Planning Scheme Amendment

³ Australian Institute of Family Studies

⁴ Australian Institute of Family Studies

⁵ aifs.gov.au/resources/short-articles/understanding-gambling-harm-and-ways-identify-those-risk#footnote-007

⁶ aifs.gov.au/resources/short-articles/understanding-gambling-harm-and-ways-identify-those-risk#footnote-008

⁷ aifs.gov.au/resources/short-articles/understanding-gambling-harm-and-ways-identify-those-risk#footnote-009