

# What's gambling really costing you?



1G (1). 1220. LG21100

**More than you think.**

**GambleAware**  
[gambleaware.nsw.gov.au](http://gambleaware.nsw.gov.au)  
1800 858 858





# What's gambling really costing you?



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# What's gambling really costing you?



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# What's gambling really costing you?



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# A million to one.

**That's your chance of hitting the  
jackpot on a gaming machine.**



# Need a break from gambling?



**You can ban yourself from gambling here.  
Talk to the Gaming Manager or call  
GambleAware 1800 858 858.**



# Help is close at hand



6G (1). 1220. LG26100

## Here for you 24/7.

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# Help is close at hand



6G (5). 1220. LG26500

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# Help is close at hand



6G (6). 1220. LG26600

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for information and support call

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**1800 858 858**

GambleAware is available any time, 24 hours a day,  
365 days a year.

You can access help confidentially and for free.

You can speak to someone in your language.  
We have counsellors who speak languages other  
than English and interpreters are available.

We support people who gamble – and their  
families and friends.

# Info about the odds

## Betting on gaming machines?

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You may play the pokies for a quick flutter or even a longer session of gambling, but how much do you really know about these gaming machines and how they work?

Poker machines are designed to make a profit for the venues licensed to operate them. In NSW, those venues are hotels, registered clubs and the casino. While poker machines can be a fun way to spend money, they are not designed to help people make money. Although you may win some money in the short-term, in the long-term it is virtually impossible to come out ahead.



## What is a game of chance?

Gaming machines are games of chance. Whether you win or lose is totally a matter of luck.

In games of chance there are no playing methods or patterns that can have any effect on whether you win or lose. Gaming machines contain a computer program known as a random number generator.

Each time you press the button to play a game, the computer program randomly selects the position of each symbol or picture.

The NSW Government checks the operating programs for all gaming machines to ensure that they meet strict technical standards. It is illegal for anyone to tamper with machines or change the operation of a gaming machine without prior approval.

Gaming machines cannot think or remember. They are operated by computer programs that produce random outcomes.

## How do gaming machines work?

Gaming machines have reels which feature symbols or pictures. The symbols assigned to each stopping

position on each reel are programmed into the machine. These positions are permanent and do not change from game to game. The other positions on the reel have other symbols permanently assigned.

The random choice of stopping position is done separately and independently for each reel. On a machine with five reels and 35 possible stopping positions on each reel, there are about 52 million possible stopping combinations.

Each gaming machine is designed differently and has different odds of winning the maximum prize, but generally your chance of winning the jackpot is no better than a million to one, and may be much lower than this.

In the long run, the machine is designed to come out ahead and you will lose money.

## Can you improve your odds?

**No** – outside factors do not have any bearing on the outcome of a gaming machine game, including previous games.

This means it is impossible to predict a gaming machine's behaviour. Each symbol that comes up is chosen randomly.

It does not make a difference whether:

- you play a machine straight after someone else has had a big payout from it
- you play a machine that has not had a big payout over a long period of time
- you play at certain times of the day or night
- you play on certain days of the week
- you press the buttons a certain way.

You cannot alter the outcome of a pokies game.

If you want to talk to someone today for information and support call

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GambleAware is available any time, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

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# Info about the odds

## Betting on Lotto, Lotteries or Keno?

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You may hear of people having a win with Saturday Lotto and Powerball, getting lucky in the lottery, or having winning numbers come up in Keno.

The odds of winning differ depending on which game you play, and so do the prizes. The winning numbers and tickets are all drawn randomly. So there is no playing strategy to increase your chance of winning.

## What chance have you got of winning the draw?

### Weekday Windfall and Saturday Lotto

Weekday Windfall draws are conducted on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Saturday Lotto draws are conducted on Saturday. In each game of Weekday Windfall and Saturday Lotto there are 45 balls, numbered from 1 to 45. Eight are selected at random by the drawing machine. The first six balls chosen are the winning numbers and the last two balls are the supplementary numbers. A minimum of four games must be played. The chance of winning a Division One prize (based on 1 standard game) is 1 in 8,145,060.

### Lotto Strike

Lotto Strike is based on the first four winning numbers from the Saturday Lotto or Weekday Windfall games. Players choose four numbers between 1 and 45. To enter Lotto Strike, you must also play the Saturday Lotto or Weekday Windfall game. Divisional prizes are awarded according to how many winning numbers match the first four Saturday Lotto or Weekday Windfall numbers drawn, but only when the numbers chosen are in the correct order. The chance of winning a Division One prize (Strike 4, based on 1 standard game) is 1 in 3,575,880.

### Powerball

Powerball draws are conducted on a Thursday night. Powerball is drawn from two drawing machines. Seven numbers are drawn from the first drawing machine, numbered 1 to 35, and one Powerball number is drawn from the second drawing machine, numbered 1 to 20. A minimum of four games must be played. The chance of winning a Division One prize (based on 1 standard game) is 1 in 134,490,400.

### Oz Lotto

Oz Lotto draws are conducted on a Tuesday night. Oz Lotto has 47 balls numbered from 1 to 47. Ten are drawn at random. The first seven drawn are the winning numbers and the last three are the supplementary numbers. A minimum of one game must be played. The chance of winning a Division One prize (based on 1 standard game) is 1 in 62,891,499.

### 'Instant Scratch-Its'

Instant Scratch-Its involve revealing numbers, symbols or pictures on a ticket. The actual odds that you will win differ according to the kind of game played. As an example, the chance of winning the top prize on a \$5 Crosswords Instant Scratch-Its ticket is 1 in 1,700,000.

### 'Lucky Lotteries'

Lucky Lotteries Super Jackpot and Lucky Lotteries Mega Jackpot are raffle style games with 270,000 and 200,000 numbered tickets available in each respective draw.

The winning numbers are first selected from the ticket pool, and prizes are awarded to tickets with a winning number and surrounding a winning number. The Jackpot number is then selected from the ticket pool.

The jackpot is won when one of the winning numbers matches the Jackpot number. The chance of winning the Lucky Lotteries Super Jackpot within a single game is 1 in 18,385,877 and the chance of winning the Lucky Lotteries Mega Jackpot within a single game is 1 in 9,483,168.

### 'Set for Life'

A Set for Life ticket is played across seven consecutive daily draws, and you must play a minimum of two games. In Set for Life, nine numbers are randomly selected from a set of 44 numbers, numbered from 1 to 44. The first seven numbers selected are the winning numbers, and the last two numbers are the supplementary numbers. The chance of matching all seven numbers and winning a Division One prize (based on 1 standard game) is 1 in 38,320,568.

### Keno

In each game of Keno, 20 numbers are randomly drawn from 80, and prizes are based on how many of your selected numbers match those drawn. Players can choose 1-10, 15, 20 or 40 numbers in each game. If you choose to play 7, 8, 9 or 10 numbers, a proportion of your bet will be added to a jackpot pool which you will then have a chance of winning. The actual odds that you will win the jackpot differ according to how many numbers you choose to play. As an example, the chance of winning the 10 number jackpot is 1 in 8,911,711.

Keno is available to play in many registered clubs, hotels and casinos.

## Can you improve your odds in lotteries or Keno?

No – because the winning numbers are drawn at random, any set of numbers has exactly the same chance of winning as any other. The games are all approved by the NSW Government to ensure they are fair. There is no 'best game' to play. Some games like Powerball have bigger prizes which are very hard to win, while other games like Instant Scratch-Its give you a greater chance of winning a much smaller prize.

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## What's gambling really costing you?

Most people gamble at one time or another. It may be on poker machines, at the TAB, on the lotteries or at the casino. For many people, gambling is fun, entertaining and causes no harm.

However, for some people, gambling can become a problem. Gambling can come at a high cost - financially, emotionally and personally. Gambling can be harmful for the person who gambles, and their family and friends.



## a problem?

If gambling is causing stress or anxiety, it might be a sign that it's a problem. Other signs that gambling is causing harm are:

- feeling guilty, anxious or depressed about gambling
- losing control of how much time or money is spent on gambling
- withdrawing from family and friends
- trying to win back losses by continuing to gamble
- borrowing money or selling valuables to gamble
- falling behind with bills or signing up for new credit cards
- thinking about gambling every day
- lying about gambling

If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these signs, it's important to reach out for information and support. You can contact GambleAware, a free and confidential service for people who gamble, *and* their families and friends.

It's never too late to get help – you can reach out today.

## Help is close at hand

You can get information and support by contacting GambleAware.

GambleAware has a confidential phone service that provides information, support and referrals. It's available anytime: 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It's a free call – in fact, the number won't even show up on your bill.

If you prefer typing to talking, then 24/7 chat is available at [www.gamblinghelponline.org.au](http://www.gamblinghelponline.org.au).

There are also GambleAware counselling services across NSW. To find one near you call 1800 858 858 or look up your local service at [www.gambleaware.nsw.gov.au/i-need-support](http://www.gambleaware.nsw.gov.au/i-need-support).

There are specialised support services available for women, those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and for people who speak languages other than English.

Financial counselling and legal assistance is also available if you're facing financial or legal challenges due to gambling.

If you're not ready to talk to a counsellor, there are options such as self-exclusion from venues or online, self-help resources online at the GambleAware website and a special section for family and friends that outlines simple actions you can take if you're worried about a loved one.

For more information, or to get support today, call 1800 858 858 or visit [gambleaware.nsw.gov.au](http://gambleaware.nsw.gov.au)



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is available for you, visit  
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or call 1800 858 858.





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# Need a break from gambling?

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