



# INFO

# ABOUT

# THE

# ODDS

BETTING ON

GAMING MACHINES?

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 ADD TO THEIR INCOME. ALTHOUGH YOU MAY WIN 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 52,500,000 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.**

## 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.**

**GAMBLING HELP**

**1800 858 858**

If you want to talk to someone who can help with information, counselling and referral, call

## GAMBLING HELP

# 1800 858 858

Gambling Help counsellors are available at any time, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

You don't have to give your name and interpreter services are available.

Or visit the website at  
**[www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au)**

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**[www.liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au](http://www.liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au)**

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