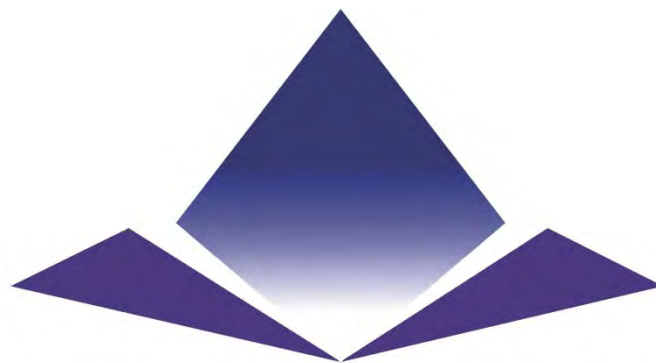


# Local Impact Assessment Class 1 Application 2 Crofts Avenue, Hurstville

Club Central Hurstville  
November 2010



Prepared by: **CAMPBELL ADVISORY**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Club Central Hurstville “the Club” as part of the Illawarra Catholic Club Group is located in Hurstville Local Government Area (LGA), classified as in Band 2 by the Casino, Liquor and Gaming Authority. The Club has been operating for 49 years and has been an integral part of the Hurstville community since it commenced operations.

A Class 1 Local Impact Assessment (LIA) is submitted requesting a poker machine threshold increase of 20 poker machines, which is a *low range increase* in accordance with the provisions of the Local Impact Assessment process guidelines.

A summary of the reasons supporting the application are as follows:-

- The increase is required to meet extra demands during peak trading times.
- The Club adheres to all harm minimisation and responsible gambling measures as per the *Gaming Machines Act 2001* and *Gaming Machines Regulations 2010*.
- Employment opportunities will increase both directly and indirectly as result of the increased gaming facilities.
- The people of NSW will benefit through increase in gaming revenue taxation receipts and the Club’s base level CDSE expenditure will also increase.
- Most importantly, the Club’s CDSE expenditure has always been in excess of annual requirements and if this application is approved then the Club will commit an extra \$55,000 per year for 2 years, to assist local schools with Positive Solutions, an innovative and interactive anti bullying program established by the “Enough is Enough Anti Violence Movement Inc”.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The following submission outlines an application for a threshold increase of 20 poker machines for Club Central Hurstville as per the Gaming Machines Act 2001.

A Class 1 Local Impact Assessment is submitted, detailing the benefits the Club will provide to the local community as well as the range of harm minimization and responsible gaming measures employed by the Club. A copy of this Local Impact Assessment will be made available for public inspection at the Club during operating hours.

According to the LIA Guidelines from the Casino, Liquor and Gaming Control Authority, an increase in threshold can only be approved where the following requirements are met :-

- the LIA complies with the requirements of the *Gaming Machines Act 2001* and the *Gaming Machine Regulations 2010*
- the LIA demonstrates that gambling activities will be conducted in a responsible manner

Also, the applicant must demonstrate that the proposed increase in gaming machines for the venue will create a positive contribution to the Local Community.

The 20 poker machines requested are required to meet extra demand especially since the Club re-opened after a major refurbishment.

Membership growth (as at 30/06)	2008	29,790
	2009	38,084
	2010	44,436

From the time of opening of the new premises in early June 2009 membership has grown by 14,646 members on 2008's figures, an increase of 49.16%.

### The Club

Club Central Hurstville is located in the Hurstville City Council Local Government Area (See Attachment A), classified in Band 2 by the Casino, Liquor and Gaming Authority as part of the *Gaming Machines Amendment Act 2008*. The Club occupies the premises at 2 Crofts Avenue Hurstville and is part of the Illawarra Catholic Club Group which also operates Club Central Menai, formerly Club Menai and recently rebranded, which has been operating since 1997.

The Illawarra Catholic Club Limited was registered as a company on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 1961. Based on a charter of like-minded people bonding together to provide an essential community facility, the club quickly grew to become a key feature of the St George area.

The Club has long been an important part of the St George Community and apart from providing premier entertainment facilities; the Club has over the years provided a base for countless sporting groups from netball to indoor bowls. It also annually contributes funds to many charities and community groups who work tirelessly within the community.

In 2009 came a new name, Club Central Hurstville, with a \$44 million new development which is the cornerstone of the Club's move forward to provide a sound financial basis to ensure it can carry on the tradition and goals of the founding members.

### Demographics

The LGA of Hurstville has an Estimated Residential Population (ERP) as at the 30 June 2009 of 79,648, an increase of 1.62% over the previous year.

Hurstville City is located in the southern suburbs of Sydney, about 17 kilometres from the Sydney GPO. Hurstville City is bounded by Canterbury City in the north, Rockdale City in the east, the Kogarah Council area and the Georges River in the south and Salt Pan Creek in the west.

Hurstville City includes the suburbs of Beverly Hills (part), Carlton (part), Hurstville, Kingsgrove (part), Lugarno, Mortdale (part), Narwee (part), Oatley, Peakhurst, Peakhurst Heights, Penshurst (part) and Riverwood (part).

Hurstville City is predominately residential, but also has substantial industrial, commercial and recreational areas. Hurstville functions as a regional centre of Southern Sydney. The City encompasses a total land area of about 23 square kilometres.

## 2. BENEFITS TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Despite the fact an extra 20 poker machines represents a low range increase, a range of positive benefits would result from this increase if it is approved.

The benefits of an increase in CDSE spend, increased employment and the maintenance of the Club's commitment to affordable food, beverage and entertainment pricing are positive factors for the wider community.

### Increased spend on Community grants

Club Central Hurstville, Illawarra Catholic Club, has always provided considerable financial support to many local groups within the Hurstville and the greater St George areas. In particular, the Club is heavily involved with a great number of local schools, community and aid groups and local sporting bodies (See Attachment B).

CDSE expenditure	2006	\$198,200 (\$161,400 required)
	2007	\$201,050 (\$163,800 required)
	2008	\$165,300 (\$144,300 required)
	2009	\$191,500 (\$177,600 required)
	2010	\$318,000 (\$317,400 required)

Over the last 5 years the Club has paid over \$1 million in financial support to the community which has been done during the Club renovations and harder economic times.

On top of the CDSE payments, the Club will commit \$55,000 per year for the next 2 years to assist the Enough is Enough Anti Violence Movement pilot the Positive Solutions anti bullying scheme in local schools (refer attachment C).

The Enough is Enough Anti Violence Movement Inc was founded in 1995 and they offer education programs. Part of their mission statement is reform by education, and teaching an understanding of the alternatives to violence as a solution. Over a decade, their programs have been developed, improved and evaluated to include current strategies “that work”.

The Positive Solutions educational programs developed for schools offers a practical and proactive approach to addressing conflict and dealing with bullying and anti-social behaviour in schools. Interwoven into each presentation are strategies for overcoming adversity, building resilience, developing personal responsibility and leadership skills. There are specific programs for High Schools and Primary schools.

#### Increased employment opportunities

An increase of 20 poker machines would necessitate extra staff to cover increase in demand for food, beverages, payouts and general customer service on the gaming floor.

#### Maintenance of affordable pricing of Club's services

The provision of additional gaming machines will provide the Club with more scope to maintain affordable pricing policies for members and guests for supplying services. This would apply to all areas of the Club, including food and beverage services, membership fees, entertainment and functions. It is important to note that this benefit would be received by all members of the community who utilise these services and not just gaming machine players. For example, many schools, community organisations and local businesses utilise the Club's rooms for their functions and the bistro is frequented by many families in the community.

Increased taxes to benefit NSW

Any Increase in gaming revenue at the Club will also benefit the wider NSW community as a result of the increase in poker machine tax. A projected increase in revenue from 20 poker machines would lead to further taxes, on top of those already paid to the NSW Government by Club Central Hurstville, which would be utilized to provide necessary services to the people of NSW.

3. HARM MINIMISATION AND RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING MEASURES

Club Central Hurstville is a Foundation Member of the Clubs NSW *CLUBSAFE* Responsible Gambling Program and has adopted the Clubs NSW *Registered Clubs Responsible Conduct of Gambling Code of Practice – Best Practice Guidelines* principles.

Staff Training

All staff who undertake any gaming-related duties have all completed a Liquor Administration Board approved Responsible Conduct of Gambling course. Furthermore, as a member of *CLUBSAFE*, all staff have been trained in the *CLUBSAFE* program and additional training has been provided for gaming area staff and Duty Managers in assisting problem gamblers and processing self exclusions. The *CLUBSAFE* manual is available to all staff for training and revision purposes for responsible gaming procedures.

The Club is also fully compliant with its AML/CTF reporting as per the *Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006*.

Advertising, promotions and inducements to gamble

The Club does not offer any unlawful inducements to gamble or any schemes that allow free gambling credits to be distributed to gaming machine players.

Gaming Machines Act 2001 and Gaming Machine Regulation 2010

The Club has adopted the following responsible gaming practices to comply with the above Act and Regulations:-

- All gaming machines are shutdown for the mandatory period
- All ATM and EFTPOS machines are located in areas where there are no gaming machines
- No minors are ever allowed access to gaming areas of the Club
- Cheques are not cashed by the Club at all, despite legislation allowing a maximum of one cheque to be cashed per person per day
- The Club has procedures in place to ensure no patron is offered or extended credit
- All advertising of gaming is not visible outside of the Club
- Clocks are clearly visible in all areas of the Club
- No cash payments over \$2000
- All prize winning cheques clearly state “Prize winning cheque- cashing rules apply”

- The availability of player activity statements by gaming players upon request is well known
- The 'Think' harm minimisation stickers are prominently displayed on each gaming machine
- The 'Think About Your Choices' counselling signage notice is clearly displayed in the vicinity of the Club's entrances
- Notices and brochures supplying information on the odds and chances of winning prizes on gaming machines are displayed in each part of the Club where gaming machines are located
- An approved problem gambling notice is clearly presented on each of the Club's cash redemption terminals and ATMs
- Self exclusion contact cards are displayed in a card holder at the end of each bank of gaming machines

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The Club operates a gaming venue in compliance with mandated Legislative requirements and operates a best-practice style of interventions and procedures via the Responsible Conduct of Gambling.

The Club Central Hurstville is a community based registered club which provides needed community support through its CDSE contributions.

If approved, Club Central Hurstville will commit to pay \$55,000 per year above the legislated CDSE requirements, for a 2 year period, to assist with a pilot anti bullying scheme in local schools which in turn will assist the whole community.

The approval of this low range increase of 20 gaming machines should have a positive outcome for the Club's members and the community as a whole.