

From: [Janette Hall](#)
To: [LIA review](#)
Subject: Submission regarding the NSW Local Impacts Assessment - our story and ongoing impact
Date: Sunday, 18 June 2017 5:37:40 PM

The Local Impact Assessment needs to be strengthened and you will receive many emails stating how this is to be carried out.

I want to share our story .The ongoing pain of the impact of the poker machine.

Until you are personally affected by this tragic addiction, which is a process addiction. An addiction that can be hidden, that causes so much shame and deceitfulness and illegal activities to keep the addiction alive. You can only partake so long with alcohol and drugs before passing out or losing your life. The poker machine addiction can go for years, destroying and harming all those involved.

█'s addiction (our son, 33) has been in full swing for over 13 years he said 'at the beginning, even a couple of years of messing with them, was I even slightly aware of where it would end up, them, taking over my whole life' Mum...' they are set up like cocaine dens, you will never hear about what happens at those machines, people die and you will know about it'

█ on numerous occasions has been one of those zombies, 2 to 3 days, sleeping in the car and heading straight back in. Doing whatever it takes to fund his addiction █ ran his own highly successful production company for over 12 years, based in Sydney. The pokies took it allThe journey day by day of a gambling addict is so painful and tragic and wasteful. At the moment █ has climbed back up to feeling OK with himself and yes still an active addict, but not suicidal, just in denial, sadly that does give us some peace.

Our son fortunately had family to provide 5 months of intensive treatment for his gambling addiction. We watched and rescued him out of many heart breaking, life threatening situations over those years. It painfully affected all involved. The more we educated ourselves with this gambling world, the more we became aware that this did not have to be. Self-exclusion does not work, my son has never been asked to leave. The creators of these machines admit they are highly addictive.

Poker machines are a delightful party, packaged, life destroying drug. Yes, and totally legal. The Government and the clubs/community promote them as a pleasurable recreation. This is a LIE! The Government's role is to protect the weak.

The pull of the pokies, the acceptability, the shameful advertising and promotion of gambling especially in NSW with over 200,000 sparkling machines calling you...█ said to me:

'it never leaves me, not ever has it left me, the addiction, I am so, so sad, I can't go on'.

Yours sincerely, Janette Hall █ Australia

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Please reply to Janette Hall at [REDACTED]

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