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3 December 2024

s 9(2)(a)

Ref: H2024055499

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 6 November 2024.

Information relating to some parts of your request is more closely connected with the functions of Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora, specifically items 1 (for 2023 data), 2, 5, and 6. However, as you have already submitted the same request to their agency, I have not formally transferred these questions under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. Instead, you can expect a response to the following questions from Health New Zealand in due course under the reference number HNZ00071563. Should you wish to follow up, you can contact Health New Zealand at: hnzoia@tewhatuora.govt.nz:

2. Demographic Data of Individuals Accessing Gambling Interventions: Any available demographic data, such as age, gender, and ethnicity, for individuals who have accessed problem gambling support services in Upper Hutt. This information would help us identify which community groups are most affected by gambling harm.

5. Gambling Harm Minimisation Initiatives: Details of any harm minimisation programs or initiatives implemented specifically in Upper Hutt, including their effectiveness, target demographics, and participation rates.

6. Community Perceptions and Feedback: If available, any reports or survey data capturing community perceptions of gambling harm and Class 4 venues in Upper Hutt, including feedback from stakeholders or clients who have interacted with harm minimisation services.

Turning to the remainder of your request:

1. Problem Gambling Interventions in Upper Hutt: The number of gambling harm interventions provided in Upper Hutt over the last five years, broken down by gambling mode (e.g., Class 4, online gambling, any other form of gambling).

Please find the requested information in the table in Appendix 1. Please note due to privacy reasons under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, numbers under 5 have been substituted as <5. I have considered the countervailing public interest in releasing information and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

For information for quarter 1 of 2023/24 and onwards, this information sits with Health New Zealand, as such please refer to their response for further information.

3. Health Impacts of Class 4 Gambling: Any research or reports available on the health impacts of Class 4 gambling, specifically focusing on mental and physical health outcomes for Upper Hutt residents. This could include data on gambling-related stress, addiction, and other health issues.

I have identified one PowerPoint presentation in scope of this part of your request. The document titled *Upper Hutt City Gambling Policy review PFG group* is attached to this letter and has been released to you in full. Please note as this PowerPoint is from 2020, some of the data and content is out of date.

4. Co-Morbidity Data: Information on co-morbidities among individuals experiencing gambling harm in Upper Hutt, including any correlations between gambling and mental health conditions (e.g., depression, anxiety) or substance abuse.

Gambling harm data is not linked to National Health Index (NHIs), as such it is not possible to link to the Programme for the Integration of Mental Health data (PRIMHD) national database to check for mental health and addiction specialist service use. For this reason, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act.

7. Class 4 Gambling Venue Compliance: Any information related to compliance with harm minimisation requirements at Class 4 venues in Upper Hutt, including any breaches or non-compliance issues reported in the past five years."

On 20 November 2024, this part of your request was transferred to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) under section 14(b)(i) of the Act. You can expect a response from DIA in due course. They can be contacted at: OIA@dia.govt.nz.

For further information you may wish to contact Upper Hutt City Council directly at: www.upperhutt.govt.nz/Contact-us/Official-Information-Requests.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: oiagr@health.govt.nz.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Kiri Richards
Associate Deputy Director-General
Clinical, Community and Mental Health | Te Pou Whakakaha

Table 1: Intervention Client Data: Service User Data for Problem Gambling - Clients Assisted by Primary Problem Gambling Mode in Upper Hutt region from 2018/19 to 2022/23.

			Upper Hutt									
			2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23	
	<u>Clients¹</u>	-	<u>Total New²</u>	<u>Total³</u>	<u>Total New²</u>	<u>Total³</u>	<u>Total New²</u>	<u>Total³</u>	<u>Total New²</u>	<u>Total³</u>	<u>Total New²</u>	<u>Total³</u>
Non-Casino Gaming Machines	Full & Follow Up (F/U) ⁶	<u>Family/Affected Other⁴</u>		<5		<5			<5	<5	<5	<5
		Gambler	16	25	17	27	10	25	<5	8	<5	7
	All Clients ⁵		27	38	24	36	18	34	<5	11	6	11
Casino EGM	Full & F/U ⁶	<u>Family/Affected Other⁴</u>										
		Gambler	<5	<5	<5	5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
	All Clients ⁵		<5	<5	<5	5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Casino Table ⁷	Full & F/U ⁶	<u>Family/Affected Other⁴</u>										
		Gambler	<5	5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
	All Clients ⁵		<5	5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Lotteries Commission Products	Full & F/U ⁶	<u>Family/Affected Other⁴</u>									<5	<5
		Gambler	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5		<5
	All Clients ⁵		<5	5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
TAB New Zealand (TAB NZ)	Full & F/U ⁶	<u>Family/Affected Other⁴</u>			<5	<5					<5	<5
		Gambler	<5	5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
	All Clients ⁵		5	6	5	6	<5	6	<5	<5	<5	<5

			Upper Hutt									
			2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23	
	<u>Clients</u> ¹	-	<u>Total</u> <u>New</u> ²	<u>Total</u> ³	<u>Total</u> <u>New</u> ²	<u>Total</u> ³	<u>Total</u> <u>New</u> ²	<u>Total</u> ³	<u>Total</u> <u>New</u> ²	<u>Total</u> ³	<u>Total</u> <u>New</u> ²	<u>Total</u> ³
Cards	Full & F/U ⁶	<u>Family/Affected Other</u> ⁴										
		Gambler	<5	6	<5	<5		<5				
	All Clients ⁵		<5	6	<5	<5		<5				
Housie	Full & F/U ⁶	<u>Family/Affected Other</u> ⁴										
		Gambler	<5	<5								
	All Clients ⁵		<5	<5			<5	<5				
Other	Full & F/U ⁶	<u>Family/Affected Other</u> ⁴							<5	<5		<5
		Gambler	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
	All Clients ⁵		<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	5
Total*	Full & F/U ⁶	<u>Family/Affected Other</u> ⁴		<5	<5	<5			<5	<5	<5	<5
		Gambler	28	50	34	51	17	43	5	12	8	14
	All Clients ⁵		43	68	44	62	29	55	13	21	18	25

Please note the below when considering these data:

1. This table reports individuals that have received support for their own, or someone else's gambling in the period and is based on all data that meets the Ministry's service delivery data rules (see Data Management Manual).
2. New clients are clients who the Ministry has not identified as having received support for their own or someone else's gambling in the past
3. All clients represents the total number of clients (both new and continuing) that have been seen in that financial year. Clients may be counted in totals for previous years
4. Family/Affected Other are Clients affected by someone else's gambling
5. All Clients includes brief intervention clients
6. F/U – Follow-up
7. Casino Table includes Electronic Table Games

Please note that if a client records more than one primary gambling mode, it is split between the modes recorded.

Due to privacy reasons under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, numbers under 5 have been substituted as <5.

Upper Hutt City

GAMBLING POLICY REVIEW

5 August 2020



PGF GROUP

Healthy and resilient communities in a just society

THE FACTS:

Where does the community funding actually come from?

USERS LOST

\$25,000 

166 

12 

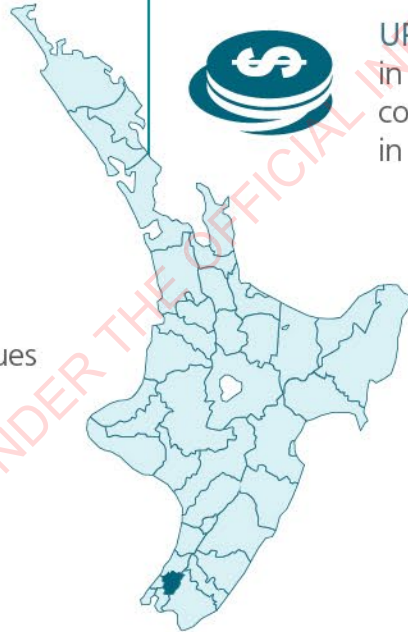
USERS LOST \$25,000 A DAY
into 166 pokie machines in 12 venues
in Upper Hutt City (2019)

USERS LOST

\$10.5million



UPPER HUTT CITY LOST
in one year money that
could have been spent
in Main Street.



8 OF THE 12 VENUES
are in the highest deprivation areas of
Upper Hutt City so the majority of pokie
losses are coming from the poorest families

Department of Internal Affairs data to March 2020



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THE FACTS:

Where does the community funding actually come from?



Are from problem gamblers
(DIA research)



Adults use **PUB** pokies
once or more a year¹



Adults use **CLUB** pokies
once or more a year¹

THE CONCENTRATION OF GAMBLING VENUES

tends to be higher in areas of high deprivation. Therefore gambling taxation and redistribution to community purposes tends to be regressive, i.e., placing a higher burden on the less-well-off

(Sapere Research Group. (2018).
Gambling Harm Reduction Needs Assessment. Wellington: Ministry of Health)

1. Abbott, M., Bellringer, M., & Garrett, N. (2018). *New Zealand National Gambling Study: Wave 4 (2015). Report number 6.*
Auckland: Auckland University of Technology, Gambling and Addictions Research Centre.



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2019 pokie machines by licence holder

POKIE TRUST/CLUB	VENUE	POKIE NUMBERS
Grassroots Trust Limited	Porterhouse Blues	9
Pelorus Trust	Charlton's Silverstream	9
Pelorus Trust	Glasshouse Bar & Cafe	16
Pelorus Trust	Luanne's Bistro	9
Pelorus Trust	Seven Bar Ltd	18
Racing Industry Transition Agency	TAB Upper Hutt	9
The Lion Foundation (2008)	Long Horn Steak & Ale House	9
The Lion Foundation (2008)	Tote Pub & Pizza Furnace	18
Trust House Foundation	Rimutaka Tavern	18
Upper Hutt Club Inc	Upper Hutt Club	3
Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club	Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club	30
Youthtown Incorporated	Quinn's Post Tavern	18

166



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Upper Hutt Venues



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THE FACTS:

How much does it cost to run the community funding system?

OF THE \$10.5M LOST IN

Upper Hutt City by pokie machine users, \$4.2m was paid out by 8 organisations (Trusts, Clubs, RITA) – 40% is grants

\$6.3M OF UPPER HUTT CITY POKIE LOSSES

went to supporting the community funding system itself – 60% is overhead

60%
OVERHEADS

40%
GRANTS



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The challenge of understanding where the grant money goes



POKIE TRUSTS	GRANTS	CUT OFF DATE FOR DATA
Pelorus Trust	\$497,031.78	30/09/2019
The Lion Foundation (2008)	\$166,302.00	29/02/2020
Air Rescue Services	\$80,139.00	31/12/2019
Four Winds Foundation Ltd	\$27,202.00	30/09/2019
Grassroots Trust	\$9,752.30	30/09/2019
One Foundation	\$4,950.00	29/02/2020
Pub Charity	\$4,309.33	30/09/2019
Youthtown	\$3,500.00	31/01/2020
New Zealand Community Trust	\$3,000.00	30/06/2019
Grand Total	\$796,186.41	



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Harmful gambling - the cost to communities

POKIES OUTSIDE CASINOS

make up almost 50% of the people who seek help about their gambling (Ministry of Health data)

PROBLEM GAMBLING CAUSES HARM TO GAMBLERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

- Emotional and psychological distress
- Family violence
- Relationship disruption, conflict or breakdown
- Reduced performance in work or education
- Decreased health
- Criminal activity
- Financial harm



RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982



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Impacts by ethnicity

MĀORI

2.5

Times the rate of
gambling harm

PACIFIC

2.3

Times the rate of
gambling harm

ASIAN

2

Times the rate of
gambling harm

Over the general population (MoH PMGH Strategy 2022)

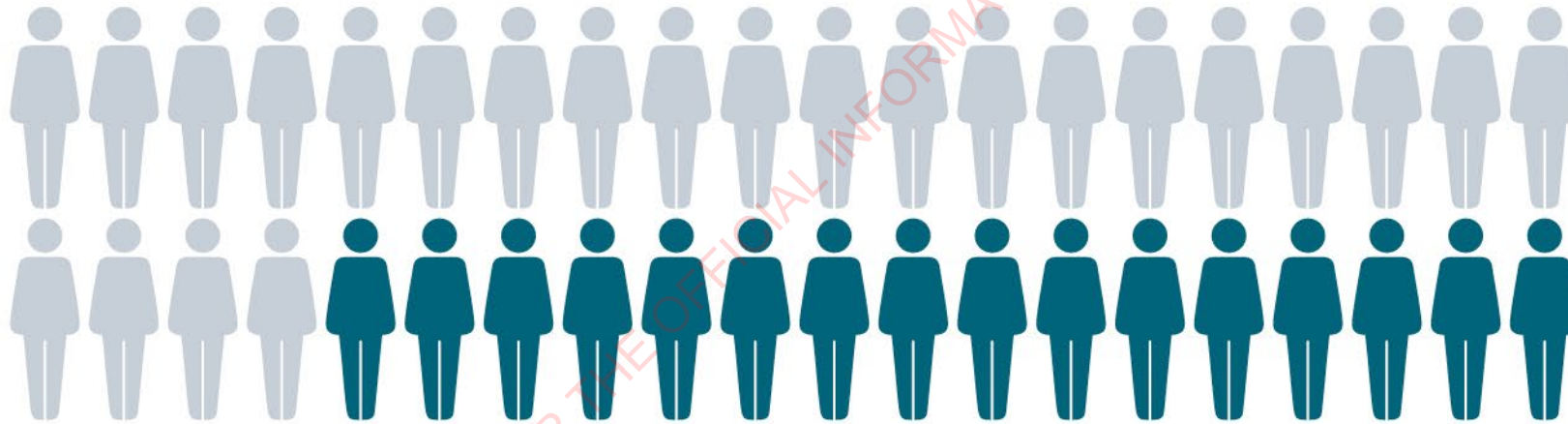


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What impact on Upper Hutt City business if there were no pokie machines

Analysis (NZIER) indicates that the retail sector generates approximately 4 jobs per million dollars in sales from diverted gambling expenditure. Diverting \$10.5m in gambling losses has the potential for up to **40 JOBS, 16 OF THOSE IN RETAIL IN UPPER HUTT.**



(There may also be additional employment in other sectors that benefit from diverted gambling expenditure. These estimates indicate that more research is warranted to more identify the true economic impact of Class 4 gambling to ensure that regulation is based on a complete and accurate measurement of costs and benefits.)



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A good philosophy and policy to reduce harm and benefit the local economy

LOOK

at where the money is lost and who is losing it

REMEMBER

that 60% of the losses from gamblers goes into the system and then 40% is redistributed in grants and not all into the area from where the money was lost

COMMIT

to reducing the numbers of pokie machines "sinking lid"

DO NOT

permit venue relocations or mergers

PETITION

the Secretary of the Department of Internal Affairs to use the powers of section 314 to not permit pokie machines in areas of high deprivation



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Thank You



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