

www.problemgambling.sa.gov.au

THE POKIES: BEFORE YOU PRESS THE BUTTON, KNOW THE FACTS.



GAMBLINGHELPLINE
1800 858 858
24/7 • **FREE** • CONFIDENTIAL

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ANYONE WHO PLAYS THE POKIES

The pokies are simply a form of entertainment. However, sometimes people play the pokies for the wrong reasons, often spending more money or time than they can afford.

If you think that you can beat the pokies, think again. You cannot change the fact that the odds are stacked against you.

This booklet is a South Australian Government initiative that explains how pokies work and what you can do if you have a gambling problem.

YOU CAN CONTROL YOUR GAMBLING

There are a number of practical steps you can take to control your gambling.

SET LIMITS AND STICK TO A BUDGET

KEEP A DIARY OF YOUR GAMBLING

LIMIT YOUR CASH AND GAMBLING TIME

BUY SMALL AMOUNTS OF CHANGE

DON'T MIX DRINKING AND GAMBLING

Once you've developed your plan, TELL SOMEONE about it and encourage them to help you stick to it.

FIND OUT MORE

Visit www.problemgambling.sa.gov.au for more information, including the self-help guide 'Gambler's Guide to Cutting Down or Giving Up' where you will find useful practical tips. The guide 'Problem Gambling: A Guide for Partners and Family Members' is also available to help family and friends cope with someone else's gambling behaviour. These guides are available free from the web site.

SEEK HELP

Call the Gambling Helpline on **1800 858 858**.

If your plan to control your gambling isn't working, do something about it. You can arrange a confidential counselling session through the Gambling Helpline, or talk to a financial counsellor about strategies to control your spending.

Trained gaming room staff can also assist you in getting the help that you are comfortable with - whether that's barring you from the venue or putting you in touch with a gambling or financial counsellor.



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THERE ARE NO TRICKS OR SYSTEMS TO OUTSMART A POKER MACHINE.

POKIES: THE FACTS.

- Each poker machine has a computer program. Poker machines are all programmed to act randomly every time you press the button.
- First, the poker machine takes the credits you have bet. It then randomly determines the outcome of that play.
- The outcome is independent of previous plays.
- If there is a win, you get paid credits. If not, the poker machine waits for the button to be pressed again.

THE ONLY THING YOU CAN CONTROL IS YOU.

You can never predict how each play will end.
None of these factors makes a difference:

- **THE LAST TIME THE MACHINE PAID OUT.**
- **ANYTHING YOU OR ANYONE ELSE DOES TO THE MACHINE.**
- **HOW MUCH YOU BET OR HOW MANY LINES YOU PLAY.**
- **HOW LONG YOU HAVE BEEN PLAYING.**
- **PAST AND FUTURE PLAYS.**
- **THE TIME OF DAY.**

WHAT ARE MY CHANCES OF WINNING ON THE POKIES?

THE POKER MACHINE ALWAYS HAS THE ADVANTAGE.

When playing a game like *Black Rhinos*, to have a 50 per cent chance of getting five rhinos, playing one line at a time, it would take 6.7 million button presses costing nearly \$330,000.*

You may have smaller wins but over time you can expect that these will not cover what you put in.

Poker machines are programmed to pay out less than you put into them, so the odds are you will lose.

Losing money this time doesn't increase your chances of winning next time.

*Productivity Commission 1999, Australia's Gambling Industries Inquiry, Report No 10.

WHEN YOU PLAY THE POKIES, EXPECT TO LOSE.

**POKIES ARE PROGRAMMED SO THAT IN THE END THE
MACHINE WILL WIN. NOTHING YOU DO CHANGES THAT.**

**POKIES ARE NOT DESIGNED TO PROVIDE YOU WITH EXTRA
INCOME. THEY ARE DESIGNED TO MAKE PROFIT FOR OTHERS.**

**LIKE OTHER FORMS OF ENTERTAINMENT, YOU PAY TO
PLAY THE POKIES.**

THE MORE YOU PLAY, THE MORE YOU PAY.

THE POKER MACHINE IS THE WINNER.

PUTTING YOUR GAMBLING FIRST?

DO YOU THINK ABOUT GAMBLING MOST DAYS?

DO YOU TRY TO WIN BACK YOUR LOSSES?

DO YOU HIDE YOUR GAMBLING FROM PEOPLE?

DO YOU SPEND MORE TIME OR MONEY THAN YOU CAN AFFORD?

DO YOU GAMBLE ALONE?

HAVE YOU DECIDED TO STOP GAMBLING, BUT CAN'T SEEM TO ACTUALLY DO IT?

If you think you or someone you care about has a gambling problem, call the Gambling Helpline on **1800 858 858** to arrange a free, confidential discussion. There is always someone at the end of the telephone, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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