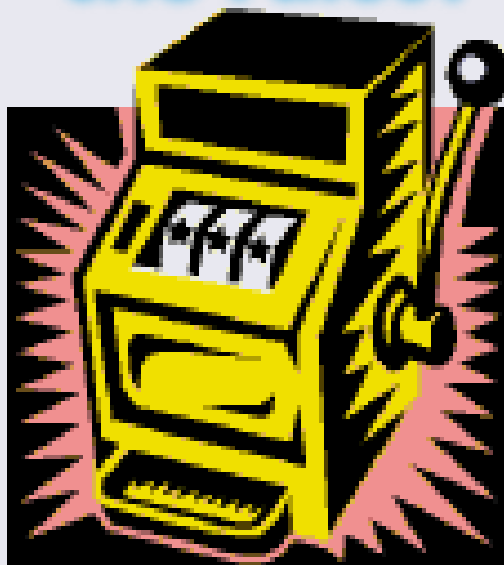


# Is the local Pokie Bar following the rules?



## A check-list (inside) to help the community monitor pokie bars and clubs

Are they following the rules and regulations?

What should concerned people and organisations be looking out for?

How do you lodge complaints?

## NZ Gambling Facts

Over \$5.5 million will be lost on gambling in New Zealand on the day you read this!

Over 50% of that will be lost in pokie machines in bars and clubs

Over \$2 Billion is lost in NZ every year on all forms of gambling (\$1.027 billion on pokies in bars & clubs alone in 2005!)

There are 23,858 legal pokie machines in 1,727 sites, including casinos, in NZ (at 31 March 2006) Until 2004, not a single one of them had been asked for by the communities that have them. There are 2832 pokies in 6 casinos.

Go to: <http://www.gamblingwatch.org.nz/files/Pokie%20Nos%20in%20NZ%20by%20TLA%2031%20March%2006.pdf>  
to see how many pokies are in your district or city

About 7,000 people, including family & whanau of problem gamblers, every year seek help for gambling addiction problems (close to 90% of these have pokie gambling as the main source of their problem)

Pokie operators must minimise their costs and maximise their return to the community, returning a minimum of 33%, including GST (the majority of the rest is kept by the owners & bars for 'admin' expenses)

Based on 2003 figures, only about 5% of pokie profits from bars & pubs actually goes to groups helping those most in need (over 50% goes to sports, see: <http://www.gamblingwatch.org.nz/files/Pokie%20profits%20split%20graph.pdf>)

In 2003, the Government passed a new law (The Gambling Act), and subsequent regulations governing how pokie venues should operate - see page 2 for explanations of these rules.

## The purpose of the Gambling Act 2003

To control the growth of gambling

To prevent and minimise the harm caused by gambling, including problem gambling

To facilitate responsible gambling

To ensure the integrity and fairness of games

To limit opportunities for crime or dishonesty associated with gambling

To ensure that money from gambling benefits the community

To facilitate community involvement in decisions about the provision of gambling

To authorise some gambling and prohibit the rest (i.e. all gambling is illegal unless specifically authorised)

### Produced by the Community Pokie Watch Project

To provide New Zealand communities with the information and support to effectively monitor compliance by pokie machine venues and owners with central and local government pokie regulations. This is not a Dept of Internal Affairs or Ministry of Health project.

**GamblingWatch**, PO Box 5188, Hamilton, New Zealand. [gamblingwatch@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gamblingwatch@xtra.co.nz); [www.gamblingwatch.org.nz](http://www.gamblingwatch.org.nz)

## The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA)

- Administers gambling laws
- licenses pokie machine operators and venues (non-casino)
- sets regulations for non-casino pokie operators, venues and machines
- ensures compliance with the law and with regulations

### The DIA approach to regulation enforcement

1. **Education and persuasion** of pokie machine owners and bar operators
2. **Licensing** of owners and operators
3. **Audits** & inspections, regular & at random
4. **Investigations**, usually following audits and/or complaints
5. **Sanctions**, or penalties, these are the final enforcement step, but may be applied without the earlier steps necessarily being followed

### The Ministry of Health is responsible for a problem gambling strategy that includes

- Promoting health by preventing & minimising harm from gambling, including problem gambling
- Providing services to treat and assist problem gamblers and their families/whanau
- Gambling research & evaluation

### Local Councils

- set policies for pokie venues in their own districts and cities (mainly for pokie venues established after 1 September 2001)
- these policies typically cover where new venues are allowed, how many pokie machines are allowed on sites, how many machines in total are allowed in the Council area, and some other points
- for further information on your local council's gambling venue policies, contact the Problem Gambling Foundation ([pgfwn@pgfnz.org.nz](mailto:pgfwn@pgfnz.org.nz))

### Key provisions of the Gambling Act

- Pokie machine numbers are limited on sites licensed after October 17 2001 to a maximum of 9 (unless the local Council has a lower max.) See Note under regulations
- The DIA won't issue a pokie venue license unless it is satisfied the applicant will minimize problem gambling risks, and the possibility of access by under-18s
- Pokie bar & club staff must provide information & assistance to people they believe may be problem gamblers
- They must issue exclusion orders to self-identified problem gamblers, and may issue these to problem gamblers identified by pokie bar/club staff
- No one under 18 may play pokie machines in bars or clubs
- Bank note acceptors in pokie machines must not accept notes greater than \$20

## The Gambling Act Regulations

Current regulations can be viewed at:

[http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg\\_URL/Services-Casino-and-Non-Casino-Gaming-Regulations?OpenDocument](http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Services-Casino-and-Non-Casino-Gaming-Regulations?OpenDocument)

### Suitability of venues:

A venue may not have pokie machines if its **primary activity** is anything other than on-site entertainment, recreation or leisure focused on those 18 and over, including:

- Dairies, supermarkets, fast food outlets, offices, private residences, sports stadiums, circuses, fairs, amusement parks, theme parks, arcades or similar venues
- Tents, marquees, vehicles, vessels, aircraft, trailers or other transport vehicles
- Footpaths, concourse areas
- Internet cafes or cyber cafes, or any other venue where electronic games or media is the primary activity
- Libraries, art galleries, museums, theatres, cinemas, etc.
- Any place of worship

- **Limit the maximum stake** (bet) to \$2.50, and prize limits to \$500 (single machine) or \$1000 (for a linked machine jackpot)

- **Ban ATM machines** from gambling areas of pokie bars & clubs

- Pokie bar/club operators must display **signage** encouraging players to bet at affordable levels

- Pokie bar/club **operators must provide information** on:

- the odds of winning
- the characteristics of problem gambling
- how to seek help for problem gamblers

- **Jackpot advertising** or branding visible from outside the venue is banned

- Pokie bar/club **operators must provide problem gambling awareness training** to the venue manager & to venue staff to ensure there is always a trained staff member present at all times the pokie machines are available to the public

- At a minimum, **trained staff must be able to**

- approach players they believe are having problem gambling difficulties
- provide information on the characteristics & risks of, and how to seek help for, problem gambling
- remind players about the exclusion provisions

- All pokie **machines must display the current time** while they are in use (if manufactured after 1 July 2005)

- All new pokie machines (from 1st October 2005) **must have a 'pop-up' feature that interrupts play** at irregular intervals (no more than 30 mins apart), informing the player

- how long they have been playing,
- the amount they have spent
- net wins and net losses during that session
- and asking if they wish to continue or to stop their session (if 'stop' the machine must automatically pay out any credits owed to the player)

**NOTE:** Pokie bars first licensed before October 17th 2001 may have up to 18 pokie machines, but may not have more machines than they were licensed for at that date. Some Councils have set a lower maximum number of machines – that is the number that must apply to all bars/clubs licensed after that date, and to any bars/clubs that have had a gap in operations of 6 months or more. Bar venues may not merge. Clubs may merge if they were licensed before 17/10/01, and follow procedures set out in the Gambling Act, including applying for a local body consent and receiving approval from the Minister of Internal Affairs to operate no more than 30 pokies in a non-commercial venue.

The Gambling Act can be viewed in full at [http://www.legislation.govt.nz/browse\\_vw.asp?content-set=pal\\_statutes](http://www.legislation.govt.nz/browse_vw.asp?content-set=pal_statutes)



# Community Check-list

Name of Pokie Bar or Club.....  
 Name of Society owning pokies.....  
 Pokie Bar or Club address.....

Date ...../...../..... Time .....

No. of pokie machines ..... No. of players on pokies .....

NOTE: It may not be possible to complete all questions in the checklist, and some information may have to be requested from bar staff.

## Is this information displayed at the venue?

Commencement & expiry dates of the venue licence?  Yes  No

How & where to apply for grants (pubs/bars only)  Yes  No

How to complain if a grant application is declined (pubs/bars only)  Yes  No

A statement that the law does not allow venue staff to be involved in grant decisions (pubs/bars only)  Yes  No

A statement that complaints about the conduct of gambling may be made to the DIA  Yes  No

## Access to Minors

Is the possibility of minors accessing pokies minimised?  Yes  No

Is signage banning under-18s from gambling visible?  Yes  No

## Responsible Gambling

Are there fliers available to players explaining:  
 - the odds of winning?  Yes  No

- the signs of problem gambling?  Yes  No

- how to contact treatment services?  Yes  No

Is signage visible that:

- encourages gambling at affordable levels?  Yes  No

- provides treatment service contact details?  Yes  No

Is there a notice in the gambling area advising that the venue has a harm minimisation policy?  Yes  No

Is the harm minimisation policy available on request?  Yes  No

Is there a staff member on duty (while pokies are available for play) who has received problem gambling awareness training?  Yes  No

Are requests for help for self-exclusion met by staff?  Yes  No

Is the word 'casino' or similar used in signage or branding outside the venue (pubs/bars)?  Yes  No

Are venue staff playing on pokie machines at the venue?  Yes  No

Yes  No If the answer is 'no' then the site may be breaching regulations  
 Yes  No If the answer is 'yes' then the site may be breaching regulations

## Jackpot signage

Where the venue has linked jackpots, is the jackpot display visible to each player?  Yes  No

Does the jackpot display the following:

- the current jackpot prize?  Yes  No

- each prize level (if more than one)?  Yes  No

- the winning pokie machine (if won)?  Yes  No

Are any jackpot displays, advertising or signage visible or audible from outside the venue?  Yes  No

## Location of pokie machines

Can staff supervise access to all pokie machines?  Yes  No

Can the pokie area be accessed direct from outside the premises?  Yes  No

Are the pokies visible from the street?  Yes  No

Are the pokies able to be heard from the street?  Yes  No

Are pokie machines otherwise located in an unsuitable area? (record comments)  Yes  No

.....  
 .....

Is the primary activity (entertainment, recreation, etc.) offered and available at all times the pokies are available to be played?  Yes  No

## Access to Grant Application Forms (only for pubs & bars, not clubs)

Are Grant Application Forms available inside or immediately outside the pokie area?  Yes  No

## Pokie machine faults

Does any pokie machine equipment have any faults or malfunctions?  Yes  No

If, when reported to venue staff, have the faults or malfunctions been immediately fixed, or the machine closed down?  Yes  No

