

# Changing the Brimbank Story: Invest in You

## Pokies:

### What Are You Prepared to Lose?

For over a decade Brimbank has had the highest pokie machine losses in Victoria

Estimated savings during COVID-19 shutdown period in 2020 were over



**\$90 Million**

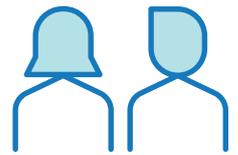
Number of pokie venues

**15**



One pokie machine for every

**173**



adults living in Brimbank

Average daily losses in the six months following re-opening of gaming venues were



**highest**

ever recorded in Victoria

Average fortnightly earning for a pokie machine in Brimbank



(based on 2020-21 figures):

**\$6,478**

Fortnightly income for a single aged pensioner

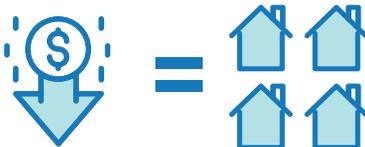


(including Pension Supplement and Energy Supplement):

**\$952.70**

Daily losses in Brimbank 2021 have reached

over **\$440,000**



This is equivalent to four family houses being lost every week in Brimbank

Number of pokie machines in Brimbank

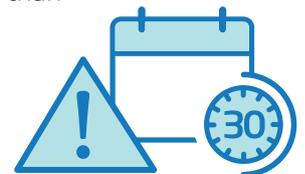
**953**

This is the limit.



Not one more pokie machine can legally be set up in Brimbank

Playing the pokies more than once a week, or for more than



**30** minutes

at a time, could mean you are at risk of gambling harm

## Pokies:

### Know the Traps

- Pokies are programmed for customers to lose their money slowly over time
- If you have a win, the machine is designed to get that money back
- There are no lucky machines and they are never "due" to pay out
- The lights and music are designed to keep people playing
- Losses may be disguised as wins
- Some people find the pokies are a way to escape from feeling sad, lonely or depressed
- Only take the amount of money you are prepared to lose and don't take your credit card



## Pokies:

### Are You At Risk?

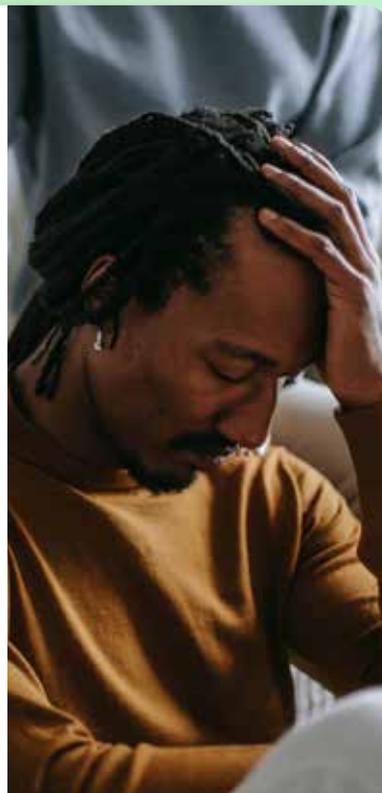
- Gambling more than once a week
- Borrowing money from family and friends
- Having trouble sleeping
- Thinking about gambling a lot
- Spending less time with family and friends
- Having lots of loans
- Not paying bills
- Spending more and more time gambling
- Being secretive
- Taking a lot of days off or frequently unaccountably absent during the day
- Telling lies
- Forgetting, missing, important appointments



## Pokies:

### What If You Can't Stop?

- Pokies can change the way your brain works
- Some people zone out and lose control over the time and money they are spending
- People with gambling addiction need to be treated with compassion not judgement
- People who seek help for their gambling have a strong chance of recovery



## Getting Help

If you or someone you know needs support please contact Gambler's



Help IPC Health on **7037 2104** or Gamblers Helpline **1800 858 858** or visit **www.gamblershelp.com.au**

Are you or someone you know experiencing negative effects from gambling? Receive confidential and free therapy and support in your language today by contacting SSI's Multicultural Gambling Harm prevention services.



Call us on **1800 329 192** or visit **<https://www.ssi.org.au/services/health-wellbeing-and-social-support/gambler-s-help-multicultural-services-victoria>**