

Submission to Royal Commission into the Casino Operator & Licence

From: Confidential
To: Contact (RCCOL) <contact@rccol.vic.gov.au>
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Attachments: Submission Cover Sheet.pdf (711.64 kB)

Good evening,

Please see attached Submission Cover Sheet for the below submission.

Kind regards

Confid

My story:

I have been gambling for the better part of 18 years now, I was introduced to the pokies when my then partner and I ventured into a venue as something to do one day. We won \$300.00, and that was it.

Turned out that by the end of our relationship the only thing we had in common was the pokies. We managed to go from no mortgage when we moved into the house we built together to \$260k debt three years later.

To be fair, some of that money was spent on 2 new cars, furniture for the house and private school fees; but a fair chunk of it was lost in the pokies.

We mostly just went to local venues but occasionally we went to Crown Casino in Melbourne, never ever coming out with more than we went in with.

After we split (amicably) I continued to go to venues by myself, an easy way to entertain myself and somewhere I could go as a single female without drawing attention or feeling out of place.

It was also a coping mechanism whenever I was depressed, stressed or overwhelmed by the world.

And occasionally I would venture into Crown if I happened to be in the City.

I hadn't won anything much in all the years I'd been popping in, but still persisted - it's a pokie lovers heaven, all those machines, all that promise of jackpots, all that temptation.

Normally staff largely ignored me, I obviously didn't fit the mould, never lost much, never stayed long. I didn't join Crown Rewards - probably because that would be admitting that I'd been there, that it left a paper trail, and I was always very good at keeping my gambling hidden from everyone.

And one day my luck turned, I won a jackpot of approx. \$13,000 give or take. See, I said to myself, you can win big money here after all.

When I won the jackpot the payout was given as \$2,000 cash, and the balance as a cheque. (I thought the law was that the entire win over \$2k was supposed to be paid by cheque, but maybe that doesn't apply to Crown?)

It was the staff that suggested the cash/cheque split, and of course the \$2,000 soon found its way back into the machines, some at Crown, some at other venues.

I still go to the Casino if I'm in the City, and I'm back to losing every time I go.

And that's my story.