



**Catholic Bishops Commend**  
**Commonwealth Government's Initiatives**  
**to Address Problem Poker Machine Gambling**

A statement from the Catholic Bishops of Australia:

“The Catholic Bishops of Australia are painfully aware of the damage that problem gambling, especially problem poker machine gambling, causes for many people. It can lead to financial disaster, family breakdown and even suicide.

Catholic welfare agencies all too often see such human damage.

We do not condemn gambling where it can be conducted responsibly; but problem gambling is never responsible. Nor is it in any way acceptable that a large percentage of gambling profits come from problem gamblers.

Therefore, we commend the recent attempts by Government to address the problem. We call upon clubs associated with the Church to lead the way in addressing problem poker machine gambling by giving careful consideration to the Government's proposed legislation.”

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