

**REVIEW OF DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL'S GAMBLING AND TAB VENUE POLICY 2009  
SUBMISSION FORM**

<b>Subject:</b>	Review of Dunedin City Council's "Gambling and TAB Venue Policy"	
<b>Proposal:</b>	To retain the current policy in its present form for a further three years	
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<b>Your Submission:</b>	A HEALTHY AND RESILIENT DUNEDIN COMMUNITY	
	<p>The Methodist Mission advocates for the adoption of Option 2 – a sinking lid on the number of gaming machines in our city.</p> <p>Pokie machines cause harm to Dunedin and Dunedin residents, not just to individuals with gambling problems but to those in their families, their workplaces and their neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Our staff see first hand the impact problem gambling has on families already living in poverty. Children go without food and there has been a noted increase in the number of family violence incidents where problem gambling has been a significant contributing factor.</p> <p>\$22 million was lost to pokies in Dunedin in 2008. 70% of pokies in Dunedin are in poor decile (7-10) areas. The losses on the pokies and the harm they are causing are impacting on already disadvantaged areas.</p> <p><b>Eighty percent</b> of problem gambling is attributed to pokies, and the cost to the community of that problem gambling is far greater, we believe, than the grants made to community from gaming machine "profits". We note that only half of the profit from pokies is available for grants, and by no means the greatest proportion of those grants are to social service groups.</p> <p>The other half of the profit is returned to the publican in whose venue the gaming machines sit.</p> <p>This is not a recreational activity: it is a milking of the poor.</p> <p>Christchurch, Auckland and Manukau have adopted a sinking lid policy or equivalent (Reducing Caps). We believe Dunedin should show the same care for its most disadvantaged citizens.</p>	
<b>Overall, do you support the stated proposal?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Do you wish to speak at a submission hearing?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Written submissions on this policy should be addressed to the Chief Executive, P O Box 5045, Dunedin 9058, attention Kevin Mechen, to be received by Friday **6 November 2009**.