



# Archbishop of Sydney

4 December 2020

Dr Rochelle Hurst  
via email <rochelle.hurst@liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au>

Dear Dr Hurst

On 26 October 2020, the undersigned Faith Leaders wrote to NSW parliamentarians about our concerns regarding the Gaming Machines Amendment (Gambling Harm Minimisation) Bill 2020.

We have attached our letter, as we would like our letter to parliamentarians and this letter to you comprise our submission to the Inquiry under section 143 of the *Casino Control Act 1992* (NSW), known as the “Bergin” Inquiry. We understand that the Terms of Reference for this Inquiry require the Commissioner to consider not just the Restricted Gaming Facility and casinos, but gaming more broadly.

Section 17 of the Terms of Reference refer to the “growing complexity of both extant and emerging risks for gaming and casinos”. We consider the potential to use poker machines for money laundering to be a risk that the Commissioner should consider.

We respectfully request the Commissioner, under Section 17(c), to consider making recommendations “to enhance the Authority’s future capability” to protect the State and its residents from criminal influence and exploitation, and to introduce a universal cashless gambling payments system that is designed both to limit money laundering and to prevent and reduce gambling harm. Such a system should be used on all poker machines across the state.

We believe that such reforms would decrease criminal activity, benefit the welfare of the citizens of our State, and provide a safety valve for the vulnerable and disadvantaged, for whom the lure of money, either through gambling or active participation in money laundering, is often overwhelming.

We commend this recommendation to the Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

**The Most Rev. Dr Glenn Davies**  
Archbishop of Sydney and Metropolitan of NSW  
President of the NSW Council of Churches

**The Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP**  
Catholic Archbishop of Sydney and  
Metropolitan of NSW & ACT

**The Rev. Dr Steve Bartlett**  
 Director of Ministries  
 NSW & ACT Baptist Churches

**Pastor Michael Hunt**  
 President  
 Fellowship of Congregational Churches

**The Rev. Andrew Campbell**  
 Moderator  
 Presbyterian Church of Australia in NSW

**The Rt Rev. Donald Kirk**  
 Bishop of Riverina

**The Rt Rev. Rick Lewers**  
 Bishop of Armidale

**The Rt Rev. Mark Calder**  
 Bishop of Bathurst

**The Rt Rev. Dr Mark Short**  
 Bishop of Canberra & Goulburn

**Lt Col. Miriam Gluyas**  
 Divisional Commander NSW  
 The Salvation Army in Australia

**The Rt Rev. Dr Peter Stuart**  
 Bishop of Newcastle

**The Rt Rev. Dr Murray Harvey**  
 Bishop of Grafton

**The Rev Gerald Vanderkolk**  
 Christian Reformed Church of Australia

**The Rev. Simon Hansford**  
 Moderator  
 Uniting Church in Australia, NSW ACT Synod

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