

Media Release

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Pokies – where does the money go?

New political party Hear Our Voice calls for a comprehensive, independent and unbiased examination of, and public report upon, the poker machine industry in Australia.

NSW Senate candidate for Hear Our Voice, Toni McLennan, said that the poker machine industry has rapidly developed into one of the largest industries in Australia. However, there is little public information or full accountability about, where and to whom, the massive profits of poker machine clubs - particularly in NSW, ACT and Victoria are directed.

“There is an urgent need to scrutinize the operations of this huge industry because we are concerned that there is hard evidence that some ‘clubs’ are operating outside their charter and do not fully and openly report on their activities,” Toni McLennan said.

“For instance, last year a case went before the Supreme Court in NSW and after an extensive examination by the presiding Judge he concluded that the so called ‘football club’ was not a football club at all. It is argued that this entity, which has been parading as a football club, is in fact a large gambling enterprise.

“Our own investigations indicate that not only was the Judge dead right, but a dark cloud of doubt hangs over numerous other clubs.

“We’ve got a situation in Australia where clubs are operating outside their charter, we don’t know where the money is going and they’re making enormous profits in a socially irresponsible way.

“Hear Our Voice will be the spark that ignites a long overdue investigation into the activities of this powerful and influential industry, and we will force them to **put their cards on the table**,” Toni McLennan said.

Media Note:

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