

Media Response

3 June 2025

Please attribute to the Mayor, Councillor Jim Memeti

We haven't been told why the Victorian Government has decided to delay the poker machine reforms.

Our municipality has the fifth highest number of electric gambling machines in Victoria – that's 928 machines across 14 clubs. We lost \$138 million to electric gambling machines in 2023/24. That is an average of \$378,000 each day and is equal to the cost of feeding 46,000 children for one year. In addition to electric gambling machine losses an estimated \$199 million is lost each year to other legal forms of gambling bringing a total annual gambling loss to approximately \$337 million.

We have consistently upheld a strong commitment to minimising gambling-related harm and remain dedicated to supporting all initiatives aimed at its prevention. I would encourage the Victorian Government to reconsider the timetable for poker machine reforms.

ENDS

Media Enquiry

3 June 2025

From The Guardian

Hope all is well. It's been awhile since we chatted. I am following up on a story that I filed last week about the Victorian government delaying reforms to poker machines, which were designed to improve harm minimisation:

['It's a moral issue': Jacinta Allan faces backlash from own MPs as pokies reforms stall | Victorian politics | The Guardian](#)

- Has the council been given a reason for why these reforms have been delayed?
- Does the council have a reaction to news they will be delayed?

- What impact will these delays have?
- Given community harm in your part of Melbourne, does the council urge the state government to pass these laws?