



Media Release

For immediate release

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Poker machine spending continues to fall

Spending on poker machines in Victorian hotels and clubs dropped by 4.1 per cent last year to a total of \$2.597 billion - the largest decline since 2002/03, when smoking bans began.

In the 2009/10 financial year spending dropped by 5.8 per cent to \$611 per adult.

The Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation (VCGR) said today that this was a cut of more than 12% from its peak of \$696 per adult in 2001/02.

Both the number of gambling venues and machines were down on the previous year.

The number of venues declined to 514, the lowest total since the mid-1990s, while the 26,682 licensed poker machines was also the lowest figure since

1996. As well, the ratio of machines per 1000 adults continues to drop, hitting a decade low of 6.28, as against 6.42 last year.

Expenditure at individual poker machine venues is also published today.

Spending per venue for the year ranged from \$149,006 to \$19.2 million. Of the venues with the greatest expenditure, 38 out of 40 were hotels, with the Werribee Plaza Tavern the top hotel and the Sandown Racecourse-Highways Tabaret again being the club with the highest expenditure level.

The complete figures are on the VCGR website at www.vcgr.vic.gov.au

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