

How the gambling industry in Australia works to reduce inclusion and resilience

Rev Tim Costello,
Alliance for Gambling
Reform



How many people are harmed?



For every **10 people** at the pokies*...

2.9 no problems



2.5 low harm



2.6 moderate harm



2.0 high harm



With more than 70% of users experiencing harm, how come pokies are allowed in pubs and clubs?

*Data from an exit survey of 444 gambling patrons in 18 venues, OGLR and VRGF 2017

\$25billion a year lost through gambling



Gambling Harm

- Financial stress
- Relationships & family
- Physical & mental ill-health
- Community & culture



Losses FY2019

- \$12.7b poker machines
- \$4.9b casinos
- \$3.5b racing
- \$1b online



Solutions

- Treat gambling as a public health issue
- End industry capture of decision makers
- End reliance on tax revenue

Where did I start in gambling reform?



Key dates in Australia – poker machines



Key dates in Australia - Casinos

Wrest Point Casino opens with promise that poker machines would only ever be in casino
(Eric Reece, ALP)

1973

Crown Melbourne opened (Jeff Kennett, Lib)

1994

Crown's "unsolicited proposal" for Barangaroo Restricted Gambling Facility on foreshore approved (Barry O'Farrell, Lib)

2013

Bergin inquiry into Crown Barangaroo finds Crown unsuitable to hold a license

2020-2021

Victorian Royal Commission into Crown Melbourne finds Crown unsuitable but defers loss of license for 2 years

2021

WA RC into Crown Perth,
Bell review into The Star
NSW Crime Commission inquiry into money laundering
AUSTRAC launches inquiry into Star casino in Queensland

2021-2022

Key dates in Australia – Sports/race betting

First horse race in Australia, in Hyde Park, on which people gambled

1810

First betting terminal at a race meeting, used by bookmakers

1890

George Julius, Australian engineer, invented the first mechanical totalizator (Tote betting)

1913

First government Totalisator Agency Board (TAB) set up to counter starting price (SP) bookies in Victoria

1961

Gambling on sport made legal

1980

First non government sports bookmaker, SportsBet registered in NT

1993

First online bookmaker, CentreBet

1996

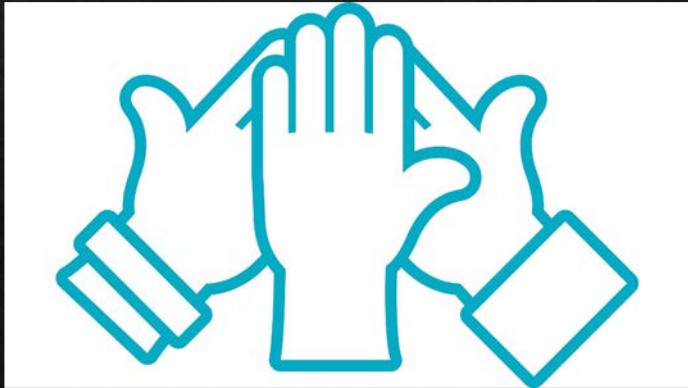
Interactive Gambling Act, prohibits online casinos, poker machines from being offered to Australians

2001

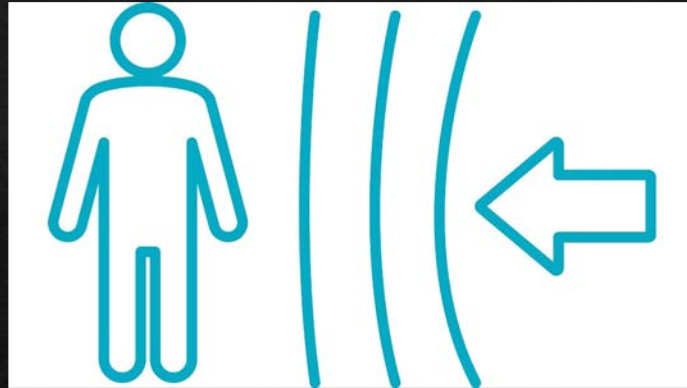
National Consumer Protection Framework for Online Wagering launched, still not fully implemented

2018

**Financial
inclusion**



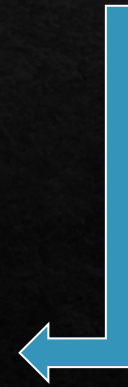
**Financial
Resilience**



**Financial
Wellness**



A full life



Industry invents “Responsible Gambling”

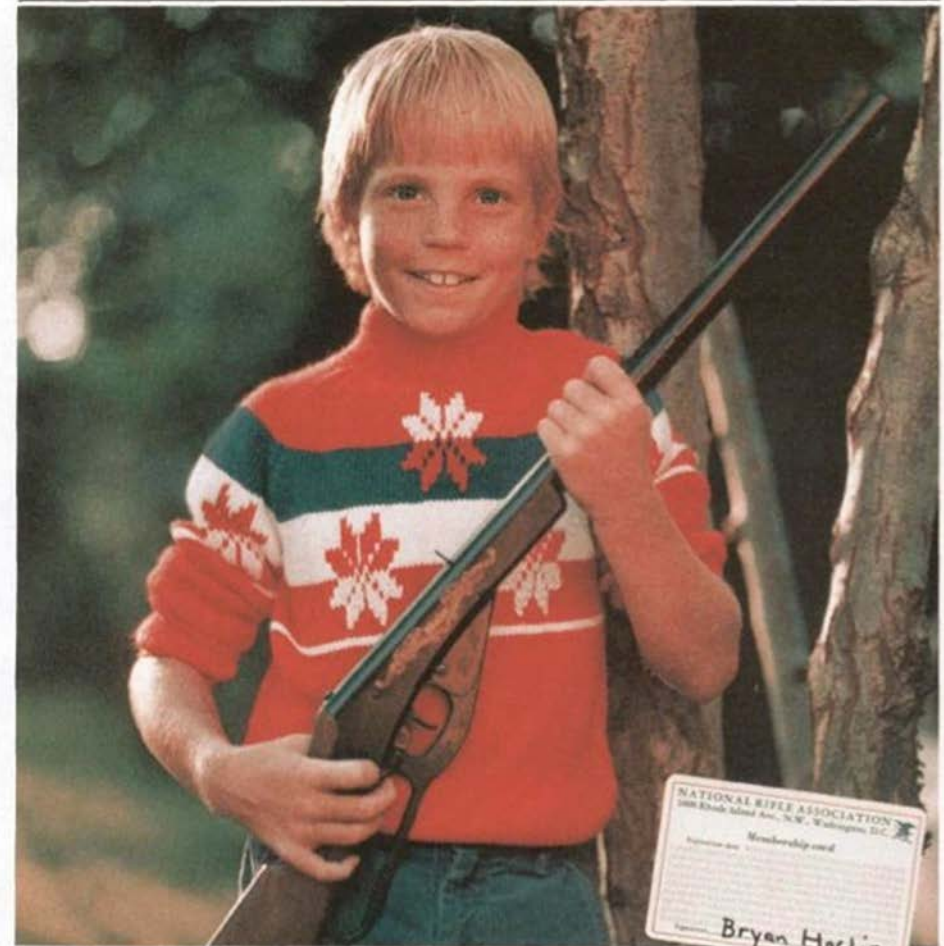
BRYAN HARDIN: 8 years old. Second grade student and a member of the National Rifle Association.

“I like to play football best. But I like my dog and I like my new BB gun. When I got it, I wanted to shoot that night, but my Dad said I had to learn the rules first. He taught me about safety and to always remember a gun is not a toy.

“We made a target out of a box in the back yard, and my Dad showed me how to aim. I didn’t hit it the first time, but then I started doing better. I just need to practice more so I can go hunting with my Grandfather. He said he’d take me when I got older and after I learned some more rules.

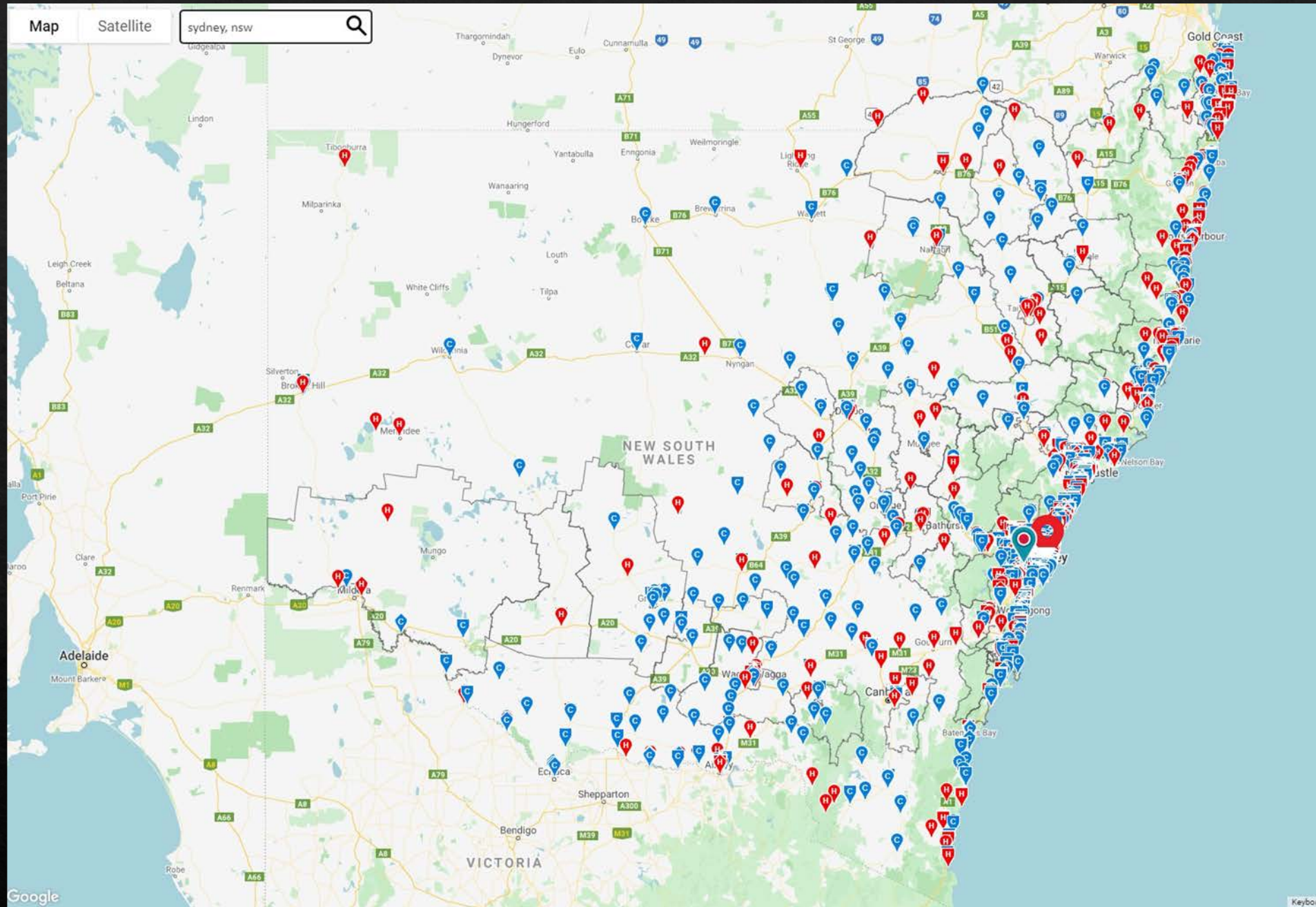
“My Dad’s a member of the NRA and so am I because he says they need kids like me to grow up and keep shooting a safe sport.”

I’m the NRA.

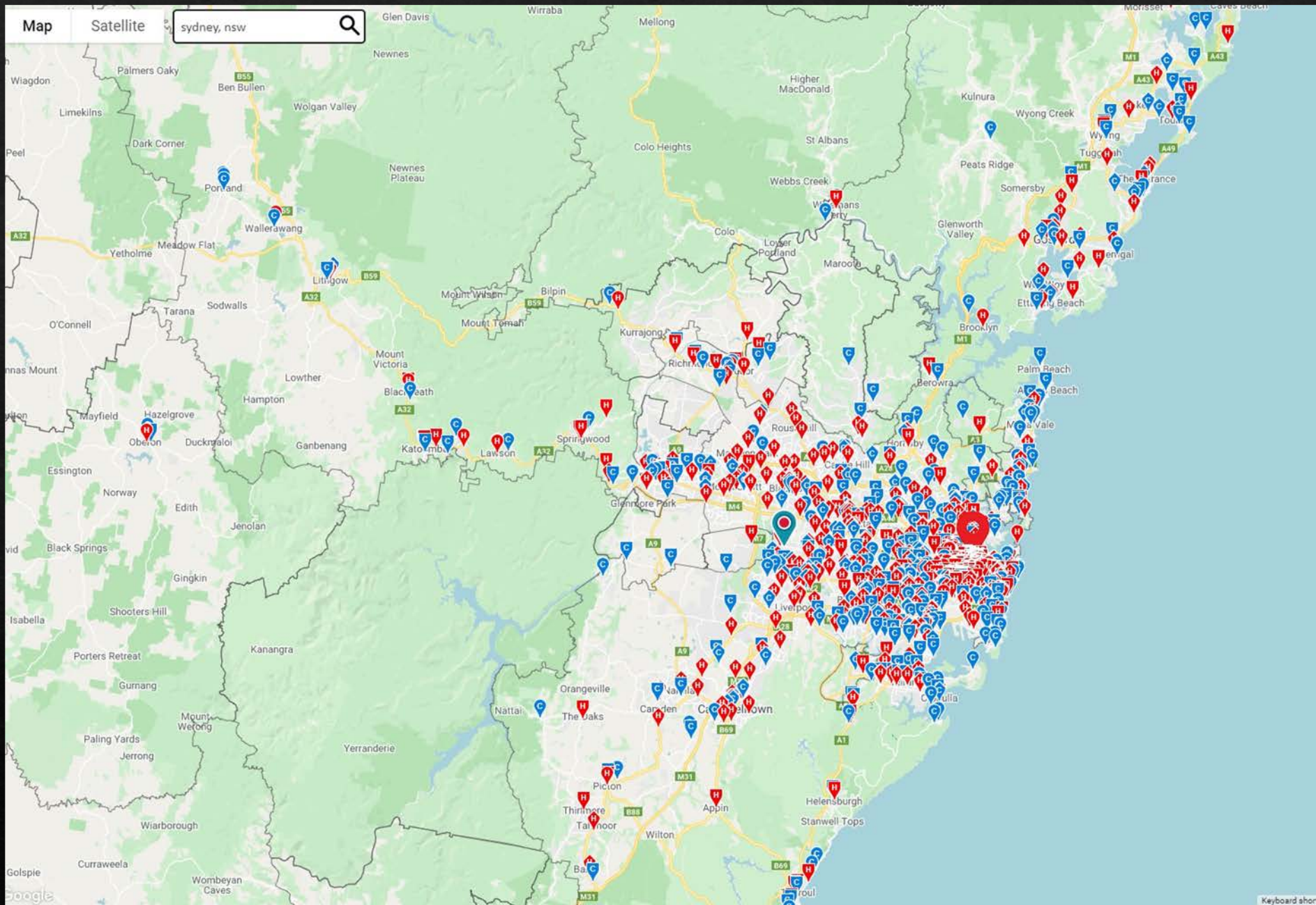


Each year, NRA members teach thousands of young people safe gun handling and basic marksmanship skills. If you would like to join the NRA and want more information about our programs and benefits, write Harlon Carter, Executive Vice President, P.O. Box 37484, Dept. BH-9, Washington, D.C. 20013.

All 2700
gambling
venues in
NSW =
89,000
poker
machines



Gambling venues in Sydney



Comparison of Brimbank and Yarra council area losses

daily losses

annual losses















number of venues

number of machines

machines per 1000 residents

ranking of losses in state


ranking of socio economic disadvantage

Brimbank	Yarra
 <p>\$444,789 spent on pokies per day, for 207 operational days in 2020-2021</p>	 <p>\$82,949 spent on pokies per day, for 207 operational days in 2020-2021</p>
 <p>\$92,071,306 spent on pokies per year</p>	 <p>\$17,170,352 spent on pokies per year</p>
 <p>15 venues with pokies.</p>	 <p>7 venues with pokies.</p>
 <p>946 pokies (this is 99% of allowable machines)</p>	 <p>288 pokies (this is 37% of allowable machines)</p>
 <p>5.67 pokies machines per 1000 adults</p>	 <p>3.16 pokies machines per 1000 adults</p>
 <p>1st highest pokies expenditure in Victoria</p>	 <p>29th highest pokies expenditure in Victoria</p>
 <p>3rd in Victoria for socio-economic disadvantage</p>	 <p>63rd in Victoria for socio-economic disadvantage</p>

Sources: [Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation](#) (pokies data 2020-2021); [Australian Bureau of Statistics - Socio-economic indexes for areas](#) (ranking of socio-economic disadvantage, 2016 Census)

View the catchment areas for [Gambler's Help services](#) across regional Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne.






BONUS BET: have a punt on us with a \$20 Bonus Bet! To claim, just head to My Account > Bonus Offers & enter code ONBET20

CLAIM NOW: bit.ly/3uxg7Y6

Forgot Password? bit.ly/3bZSvVI
7 days to claim & 7 days to use once claimed. T&Cs apply. Gamble Responsibly. OptOut STOP 0438724548

That's Ladbrokes. Weekly offer.



The Greyhounds kick off at Wentworth Park from 6:42pm AEDT.

Bet Now: nxt.to/LNdfnlV


Optout txt STOP to 0400081159 Gamble Responsibly.
Hi

Thanks for being a Sportsbet customer. We'd love to hear your feedback as we're always looking for ways to improve your experience betting with Sportsbet.

It should only take about 10 minutes to complete, and you'll go into the draw to win one of 20 \$50 Bonus Bets!

Take the survey here: nxt.to/Rkha3TI

Optout txt STOP to 0400081159 T&Cs apply Gamble Responsibly.



in ALL RACES at Caulfield & Warwick Farm, if your horse runs 2nd/3rd, get up to \$50 BACK in Bonus Bets via Bet Returns!

Best Bets are backing ALCYONE, R3 at Caulfield, check it out today!

Bet now: nxt.to/8betjn1


Optout txt STOP to 0400081159
*T&Cs apply. Gamble Responsibly. you've still got 9 x \$50 Bet Returns & 3 Power Plays remaining in your account to use today.



BET ON SOCCER

THE WORLD'S FAVOURITE ONLINE BETTING COMPANY

Emma Kemp
Thu 4 Nov 2021 15:26 AEDT



Adelaide United captain Stefan Mauk credited his club's culture "re-set" for providing Josh Cavallo with a comfortable space to openly address his sexuality, as Liverpool manager Jürgen Klopp became the latest big name in the game to laud the player for coming out.

A week after Cavallo publicly announced he was gay and said he knew there were other players "living in silence", Klopp said he believed the world outside men's professional football is more of an obstacle for players being open about their sexuality than inside dressing rooms.

Liverpool were one of innumerable high-profile clubs and players around the globe to publicly express support for the Adelaide player, but Klopp hoped the game would reach a point when such announcements are "not necessary".

"I think we all agree, it should not be like this," Klopp said. "Obviously, Josh

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Graphics from
Selling Out: How
powerful industries
corrupt our
democracy, Human
Rights Law Centre,
2022

<https://www.hrlc.org.au/reports/2022/1/31/selling-out-how-powerful-industries-corrupt-our-democracy>



Industry body	Person	Position	Role in govt.	Donations FY2021 AEC register
AHA = Australian Hotels Association				\$473,383 (all branches)
	Reba Meagher	Contracted lobbyist	Former NSW ALP Health Minister	
	Michael Photios	Contracted lobbyist	Former NSW Lib Tourism Minister	
	David Elliott	Former Dep CEO of AHA (NSW)	NSW Lib Police Minister til Dec 21, now Minister for Transport and Veterans	
	John Whelan	Current CEO AHA (NSW)	former Chief of Staff, NSW ALP Minister for Gaming and Racing	
Crown Resorts				\$46,228 (Crown) \$120,088 (The Star Group)
	Peta Credlin	Former head of policy, CPH, board director of Crown Melbourne	Former Chief of Staff to Lib Prime Minister Tony Abbott	
	Mark Arbib	Strategic Director of CPH	Former NSW ALP Minister	
	Karl Bitar	Former Exec VP Crown	Former ALP National Secretary, campaign director Julia Gillard 2010	
	Helen Coonan	Former board Director and Chair, Crown (to 2021)	Former Fed Lib Minister	



Graphics from
Selling Out: How powerful industries corrupt our democracy, Human Rights Law Centre, 2022

<https://www.hrlc.org.au/reports/2022/1/31/selling-out-how-powerful-industries-corrupt-our-democracy>



Industry body	Person	Position	Role in govt.	Donations FY2021 AEC register
Responsible Wagering Australia (online bookmakers)				\$34,920 (RWA) \$186,940 (TAB Corp) \$143,000 (SportsBet)
	Nick Minchin	Current Chair	Former Fed Lib Special Minister of State	
	Richard Colbeck	Former Chair	Current Fed Lib Minister for Sport and Aged Care	
	Stephen Conroy	Former CEO	Former Fed ALP Senator	
Racing Australia				
	Barry O'Farrell	Former CEO	Former NSW Lib Premier	
	Peter McGauran	Former CEO	Former Fed National Minister	

Reducing the social license of gambling, rebuilding the community



Work across sectors, particularly to protect children and the vulnerable - which might be any of us



Tell stories of lived experience to decision makers



The Alliance for Gambling Reform

agr.org.au

endgamblingads.org.au

Gambling Help services (national)
1800 858 858

Lifeline 13 11 14

