



South Australian Debating Association Inc

Inter B, Quarterfinals

That we should ban pokies

1. Type of Topic

This is a normative (model) debate.

This means that the affirmative team should propose a “model” (a policy on how we can ban pokies). This model should clearly outline what changes the affirmative team would make to the status quo, and how these changes will be enacted.

The negative team can either support the status quo or propose a countermodel. This countermodel must be different from the status quo, but also different from the model that the affirmative team is suggesting. The negative team should ensure they clearly identify whether they are supporting the status quo or proposing a countermodel.

2. Background / Context

Pokies, also known as poker machines or slot machines, are electronic gambling machines that have a video screen displaying a series of symbols. Pokies are a prevalent form of gambling used all across the world, typically found in casinos, but also smaller venues like pubs and clubs. They are designed to be easy to use, with players inserting money or credits into the machine, spinning the reel, and hoping to match symbols to win money. Due to this, pokies are a game of chance with no skill involved.

3. Specific Questions for consideration

- What are poker machines designed to do? Do they succeed in that purpose?
 - What implications does this have for the players?
- Are people able to make their own rational decisions about whether to use pokies?
 - Do pokies have a significant risk of addiction? Why/why not?
- Who makes up the gambling industry?
 - How do they benefit from pokies?
- What does the government gain from allowing pokies to remain legal?
- What harms do pokies cause to society?
 - Consider the major stakeholders (e.g. the individual, society, government, etc.)
- What are other approaches to gambling regulation that are currently being considered across Australia?

- What are the economic implications of banning pokies?
 - Consider the revenue generated by pokies, and whether this revenue can be generated in other ways
 - Consider impacts on the tourism and hospitality industry
- Are there any successful examples of regions or countries that have implemented a ban on pokies?
- Why do people play the pokies?
 - What benefit do they derive from this?
 - What harm does it cause?

© The South Australian Debating Association, Inc. 2023

This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced by any process without prior written permission from the South Australian Debating Association, Inc. Requests and inquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be directed to the President, The South Australian Debating Association, Inc., GPO Box 906, Adelaide, SA 5001.