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# Problem Gambling Research Project 2012

## Cross-Border Electronic Gaming Machines: Who uses them and how?

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Problem Gambling Research Project  
March – June 2012

Campaspe Primary Care Partnership

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- Meagan Sully, previous Problem Gambling Research Project Officer, Campaspe PCP
- St Luke's problem Gambling Counsellors

Participating gaming venues;

- Moama Bowling Club
- Border Inn Hotel
- Rich River Golf Club
- Moama Sports Club
- Moama RSL Club

## Abbreviations

CPCP – Campaspe Primary Care Partnership

EGM – Electronic Gaming Machine

NSW – New South Wales

CBD- Central Business District

RSL- Returned Serviceman's League

PGC- Problem Gambling Counsellors

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## 1. Executive Summary

For most people, gambling is a form of entertainment that is enjoyed responsibly. Many Australians gamble in some form at least once a year, whether it's an occasional flutter at the races, buying a lottery ticket, playing the pokies or a night out at the casino.

According to problem gambling, (2009) Australians spend nearly \$12 billion a year on poker machines and three quarters of people who have a serious problem with gambling are EGM players. One in six people who play EGM's regularly has a severe gambling problem. (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). Problem gambling is characterised by difficulties in limiting money and/or time spent on gambling which leads to adverse consequences for the gambler, others, or for the community (Neal, Delfabbro and O'Neill, 2005). Problem gambling can affect a number of facets of a person's life including their physical and emotional and mental health, relationships, study, finances and work. There is a strong link between problem gambling and depression, where nearly three out of four people with a gambling problem are at risk of developing depression (Thomas & Jackson, 2008).

Although there is currently limited local information that identifies profiles of people who use EGM's across the Campaspe and Murray Shires, previous research projects have identified trends of EGM users within the Campaspe Shire. In 2011, Campaspe Primary Care Partnership conducted a gambling research project with the aim to discover and understand the population profile and motivations of electronic gaming machine (EGM) users across the Shire of Campaspe. This project primarily focused on venues located within the Campaspe Shire. At the conclusion of this project, it was recommended that further research be conducted on the impact of EGM venues located within the Murray Shire on Murray and Campaspe Shire residents.

It is noted that due to differences in legislation between Victorian and NSW gaming regulations, information regarding localised expenditure is not readily available in NSW. Methods used to gather information specified in this report are largely of a qualitative matter. Anecdotal evidence based on accounts from venue managers, patrons, health and welfare professionals and persons who frequent gaming venues was collected to obtain an understanding of EGM user profiles in southern NSW (Moama) area. The project conducted observations within five venues in the Moama area, during which trends amongst EGM machine users was noted. The project acknowledges that conducting observations was not an interactive process and all data recorded and presented as a result of observations is based on estimates, approximations or prior knowledge of the project officer. Patron's using EGM's

were invited to participate in interviews to provide information on gaming practices. The project offered incentives to patrons in the form of Woolworth's grocery vouchers.

Whilst overall similarities in user trends and demographics amongst the four services clubs under consideration were determined, some diversity between individual venues is noted. The Border Inn (hotel) showed a notably different demographic. Information provided by venue managers was generally, but not overwhelmingly, consistent with data ascertained through other means of examination, including interviews and observations. Key findings of this project include:

- A notably older demographic amongst users at the services clubs, with a relatively high number of users over the age of 65.
- A higher level of lower socio economic users in hotels and venues located closer to the CBD
- A higher level of indigenous patrons at the hotel venue as opposed to services clubs
- Key differences in gaming trends amongst hotel patrons as opposed to service club patrons
- Markedly different accounts pertaining to problem gambling trends from varied sources
- A higher female to male ratio amongst EGM users at the services clubs
- A general unwillingness to participate in interviews amongst patrons.
- Varied demographics at individual clubs dependant on time and days of the week
- A significant amount of patrons participating in EGM use in the Murray Shire who reside in the Campaspe Shire (68%)
- Notable differences in demographics and motivations between patrons of the Shire of Campaspe and Murray Shire venues
- Unrealistic ideas and notions pertaining to the function of EGM's amongst many users

Information gathered indicated that although large numbers of patrons participating in EGM use across the Moama area are visitors to the region, gaming in southern NSW impacts on residents from both Murray and Campaspe Shires. Further to this, it was identified that the venues located closer to the CBD had a higher percentage of local patronage in contrast to clubs located away from the CBD area. It was identified that patrons often adhered to a routine in order to increase their chances of winning when gaming, whether it be due to superstition or a belief that the machines can be manipulated.

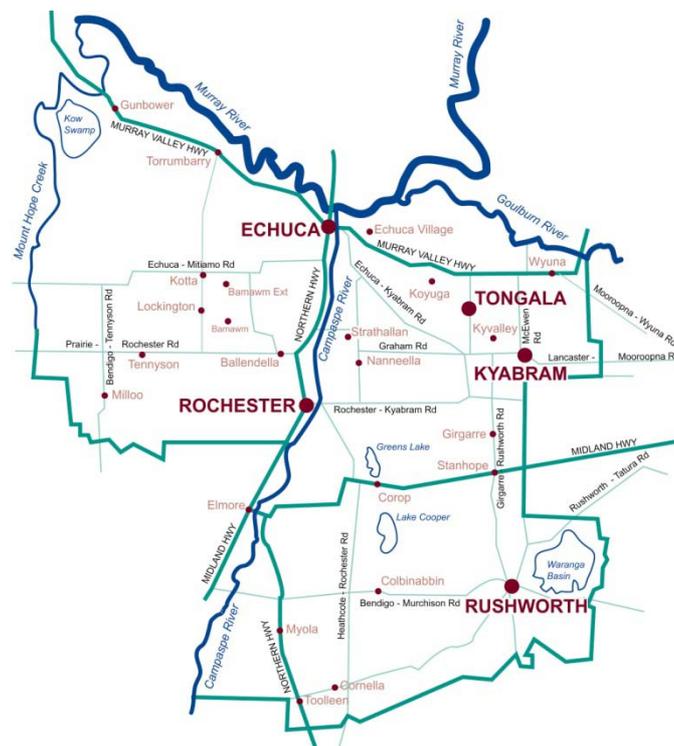
The main recommendations from this project are;

- Further research into gaming habits and procedures displayed and notions held by users
- Acknowledgement of the different demographics of gaming machine users across different venues in future prevention strategies
- The utilisation of a worker who fits the demographic identified as the most likely to participate in EGM use (age and gender) to conduct research.
- For continued evidence-based work which aims to strengthen social connection in the community.
- For continued community education to dispel gaming machine myths

## 2. Background & Introduction

The Shire of Campaspe is located in north central Victoria, on the New South Wales border, and is approximately 180 kilometres from Melbourne. The Shire's largest town is Echuca, with a population of 12,360. Echuca is located adjacent to Moama over the Murray River in NSW. Campaspe Shire covers approximately 4,500 square kilometres with a total population of 38,983 (Shire of Campaspe, 2008). The Shire is considered to have areas of disadvantage however is not ranked as having one of the top 40 postcodes of most disadvantaged assessed statewide. Despite not being represented in this bracket, Campaspe has areas of disadvantage or a degree of disadvantage (Vinson, 2007). Large areas of the Shire are classified as moderately disadvantaged however, these areas are mostly agricultural areas and sparsely populated. Echuca has the highest median income and highest proportion of residents with a Bachelors Degree in the Shire whilst also having the highest level of renters and residents living in public housing in the Shire (ABS, SEIFA Index of Disadvantage). It is noted that the collection districts to the immediate south-west and north-east of the town's commercial centre exhibits the greatest relative disadvantage. The areas immediately surrounding the town centre of Kyabram exhibit the greatest levels of disadvantage with relative disadvantage decreasing around the periphery of the town (Shire of Campaspe, 2010)

Figure 1: Map of Campaspe Shire



The Murray Shire is home to some 7,319 residents and covers 4,328 square kilometres. Moama, with a population of 4,639 (Murray River Tourism, 2010) is the Murray River neighbour of Echuca (Victoria) and just two and a half hours from Melbourne. Echuca provides Moama residents with employment, facilities and services, which means that Moama has a close association with Echuca and many civic activities. (Murray Shire Council, 2012). The Murray Shire is not recognised as having high levels of disadvantage, being in the in the 6<sup>th</sup> deciles for levels of disadvantage, recording a score of 990.5 (ABS, SEIFA index 2006)

A key local gaming issue for Campaspe is its location adjacent to NSW and in particular the large number of gaming venues in and around Moama on the opposite side of the Murray River and in close proximity to Echuca. Unlike the Shire of Campaspe, which is subject to Victorian legislation that stipulates all municipal areas are to have a maximum permissible number of gaming machines equivalent to ten gaming machines per thousand adults, the Murray Shire is subject to no such legislation. There was in 2011 149 EGM's in the Campaspe Shire, 96 of these were located within 2 venues in Echuca. The maximum permissible number of machines for the Campaspe shire is capped at 286. The density of gaming machines in the Shire was 5.08 EGMs per 1000 adults, with expenditure of \$264 per adult – both figures are below the State average. However, the large number of gaming machines (627) located in Moama raised the gaming density of Echuca/Moama to 56.22 per 1000 adults. This figure is well above what would be found in almost any other part of Victoria. (Shire of Campaspe, 2011). These figures may now be slightly altered as an additional 18 gaming machines have been added to an Echuca venue.

According to the Victorian Commission of Gaming and Racing (2010), Campaspe Shire adults spend \$264 every year on gaming machines, which equates to \$5 every week. The Shire of Campaspe report a weekly median individual income of \$396 per resident, which decreases to \$391 per week once gaming money has been extracted (ABS, 2010). Further to this is the consideration of the number of gaming machines accessible to Victorian residents over the Murray River in NSW. When the Moama spend figure of \$793 per adult per year is taken into account, this equates to around \$15 every week.

NSW local government areas have been classified into three bands based on local EGM density and expenditure, as well as social and economic data. It is noted the Murray Shire has been included in Band 3; that is, a municipality characterised by a high number of gaming machines, high expenditure and low socio-economic rankings.

It is suggested that NSW is the heartland of poker machine culture in Australia (Livingstone, et al, 2011) State-wide-level data pertaining to poker machines, shows NSW has in total 94,530 EGM's, the next highest being QLD with 26,778. Total user losses on EGM machines across NSW are \$4,994, 520,857, averaging \$1003 per adult per annum. (Livingstone, et al, 2011). There is limited data pertaining to profiles, trends and demographics of EGM users throughout the southern part of the Murray Shire. It is reasonable to assume that gaming in the Murray Shire impacts on Shire of Campaspe residents in some form, taking into consideration the proximity to the Shire and its major town, Echuca, and the volume of EGM's located in the Moama area.

The previous CPCP research project conducted in 2011 reported that discussions were held with managers of three Moama (NSW) based venues. They reported differing legislative operating guidelines to Victoria. In terms of their venue location, they did not believe they had a significant impact on EGM use from Shire of Campaspe residents, although no data was able to be obtained to support this. The managers also reported a higher dress standard, which is actively monitored, at their venues in comparison with Shire of Campaspe venues. One manager also commented on the 'complete package' available at his venue which included accommodation, sporting activities, meals and gaming. This therefore attracted a large amount of tourists and those who were more financially 'well-off'. Other Moama based venues were approached for discussion, however response was poor and no relevant information was obtained. Recommendations for further research to be conducted on the impact of EGM venues located within the Murray Shire on Murray and Campaspe Shire residents were made.

Therefore, the aim of this project is to discover and understand the population profile and motivations of EGM users across five venues in southern NSW (Moama). The objectives are:

- To define demographic profile of EGM users in five venues within the Moama area and seek information for the purpose of determining their motivations for playing.
- To compare and contrast the EGM user profile of Moama patrons with those of venues within the Campaspe shire
- To investigate the impact of gaming machines located in Moama on Shire of Campaspe and Murray Shire residents
- To determine whether and how profile trends vary between establishments (club vs. pub)

### 3. Strategies & Methodology

Both qualitative and quantitative methods were used to obtain and record relevant information:

#### Venue gaming room observations

Four observations over varied times and days of the week were conducted on five venues in the Moama area of the Murray Shire. A fifth observation was carried out on two of the venues within peak periods during which too many patrons were observed to accurately access.

**Table 2.0: Venue gaming room observations**

Venue	Date	Time
Moama Bowling Club	Tuesday 24/04/12	11:30am -12:00pm
	Friday 27/04/12	11:30am -12:00pm
	Friday 27/04/12	3:00pm - 3:30pm
	Thursday 03/05/12	3:30pm - 4:00pm
	Thursday 10/05/12	07:00pm - 8:30pm
Rich River Golf Club	Thursday 19/04/12	3:30pm - 4:00pm
	Friday 20/04/12	11:30am-12:00pm
	Tuesday 24/04/12	2:00pm - 2:30pm
	Friday 03/05/12	12:30pm-1:30pm
	Friday 25/05/12	8:00pm - 8:30pm
Moama Sports Club	Friday 23/03/12	10:00am -11:00am
	Wednesday 28/03/12	10:00am -11:00am
	Thursday 05/04/12	12:00am –1:00pm
	Wednesday 11/04/12	3:00pm - 3:30pm
	Friday 25/05/12	9:00pm - 9:30pm
RSL Club	Friday 30/03/12	12:00pm- 12:30pm
	Thursday 12/04/12	2:30pm - 3:00pm
	Friday 20/04/12	11:00am -11:30am
	Tuesday 24/04/12	10:30am -11:00am

	Friday	25/05/12	8:30pm - 9:00pm
Border Inn Hotel	Sunday	22/04/12	3:00 - 3:30pm
	Tuesday	24/04/12	10:15am -10:30am
	Thursday	03/05/12	12:30pm -1:00pm
	Saturday	26/05/12	8:00pm - 8:30pm

### **Informal interviews/conversations with venue patrons**

It was the intention of the project to interview patrons from each of the five venues. The project endeavoured to interview patrons from a broad demographic to accurately gauge gaming trends, with accurate representation of patrons from categories with a higher incidence of EGM use.

### **Informal interviews with venue owners/managers and key staff**

Staff members nominated by participating venues were interviewed with the intention of gleaning information relevant to the problem gambling research project. Staff members provided insight into trends and motivations of EGM users and general information pertaining to venue operations.

### **Informal interview with Problem Gambling Counsellors servicing the Echuca Moama Area.**

The project sought to interview Problem Gambling Counsellors to gain an insight into profiles of EGM users seeking support for Problem Gambling. Information regarding gambling trends and the impact of EGM's comparative to other forms of gambling in the Echuca Moama area was provided.

### **Accessing venue membership demographics**

The project sought to determine membership demographics. Venues provided estimates based on their knowledge. Patrons interviewed informed the project of their postcode.

## 4. Results

### Observations

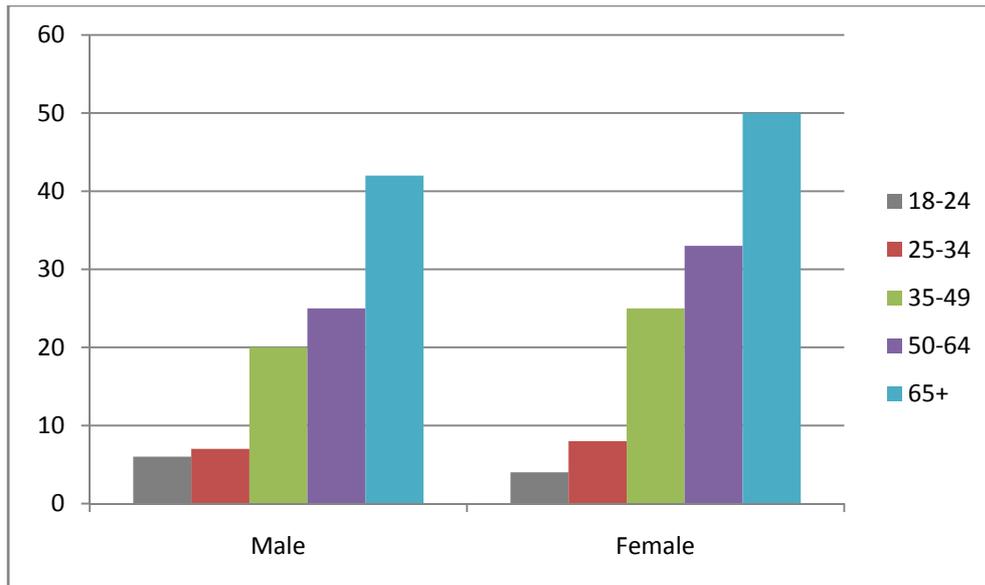
Observations were conducted at five venues within the Moama area of the Murray shire. Whilst each venue showed a unique user profile, differences between the “pub and club” demographic was apparent. It is acknowledged that numbers and profiles vary significantly dependant on times and days of the week. The project endeavoured to conduct numerous observations at each venue during a diverse range of times and dates in order to give an accurate portrayal of the overall patronage of each venue. The project refers to “peak times” during which there is a higher number of patrons present at a venue. These times are acknowledged as Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. It should be noted that all information gathered and submitted in this observation report is based on approximations determined by the project officer. It is the intention of the project to identify trends and demographics to construct accurate profiles of EGM users. The project officer acknowledges that to endeavour to determine the cultural or racial identity of a patron based on appearance alone is contentious. For this reason, statistics relating to individual patron’s racial or cultural identities have not been included. This report does however include information on cultural demographics based on existing or obtained knowledge of the project officer. Observations indicated an overall higher number of patrons at four of the five venues during peak times, including a higher number of young people.

### **Moama Bowling Club**

Four observations were conducted at the Moama Bowling club, over varied times and days of the week. Moama Bowling Club has the largest gaming area of the services clubs in the Moama area and the most EGM’s. It should be noted that due to the volume of people present during some of the observations, numbers were difficult to accurately gauge. This was further complicated by people entering and leaving the gaming area regularly. Numbers were recorded to the best of the project’s coordinators ability.

Over four visits to the Moama Bowling club, approximately 220 patrons were observed. 45.45% of patrons were male, 55.55% were female. 41.8% were aged 65 years or older and 26.36% were aged between 50-64 years. These two age categories comprised nearly 70% of all EGM users observed. Over 80% were aged 35 years and over.

Chart 1.1 ... Record of observations at Moama Bowling Club 24 & 27/04, 3 /5/12

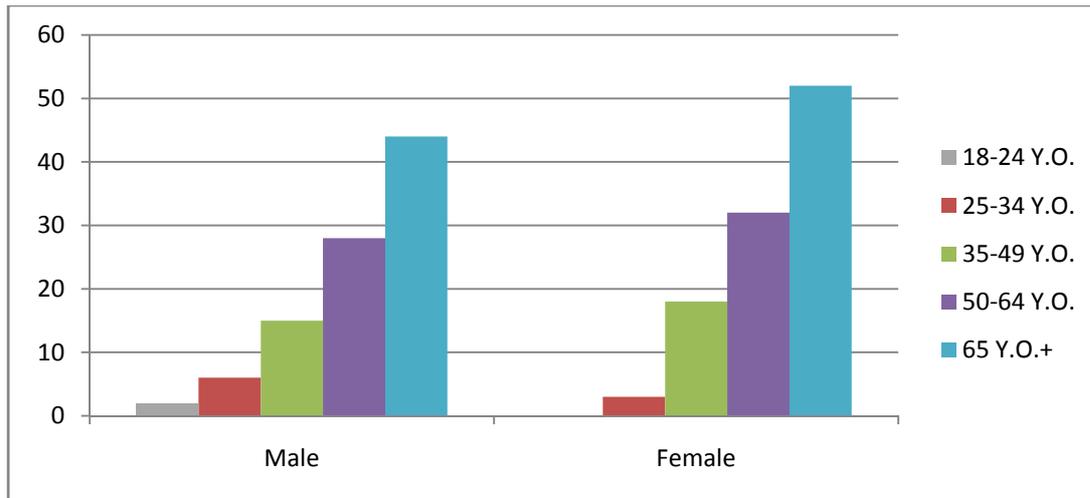


A fifth visit was conducted during which too many patrons were in attendance to accurately count. This observation was conducted at 7pm on a Thursday evening. There appeared to be a more even mix of male to female patrons and ages were more varied with a slightly younger crowd observed in comparison with other observation times. Notwithstanding this, approximately 50% appeared to be over 50 years of age. A more even split (approximately 50%) of people appeared to be playing in groups.

### Rich River Golf Club

200 patrons were observed playing EGM's during five visits to Rich River Golf Club. 47.5% were male and 52.5% were female. Nearly 50% of patrons observed fell within the 65 years of age and over category. Over 75% were 50 years of age and over. No female patrons between 18 and 24 years of age were observed during the four visits to Rich River Golf club. A higher number of male patrons were present during weekends. 32.35% of patrons observed over the four visits were playing in pairs or groups, more so during evening visits.

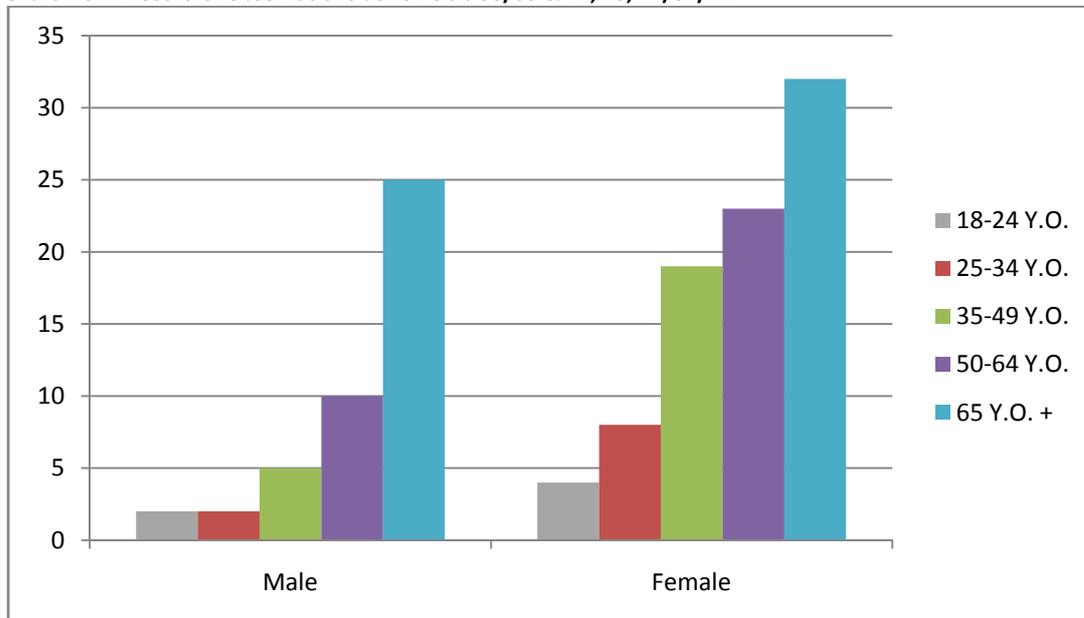
Chart 1.2 ... Record of observations at Rich River Golf Club 12, 20, 24/04 & 3 & 25/5/12



### RSL Club

130 patrons were observed playing EGM's over four visits to the RSL club. 33.84% were male and 66.15% female. 43.85% were aged 65 years or over. Nearly 70% were aged 50 years and over. 19.07% of patrons observed over the four visits were playing in pairs or groups. A fifth visit was conducted during which there were too many patrons in attendance to accurately count. There appeared to be a slightly younger demographic during this visit which was conducted on a Friday evening

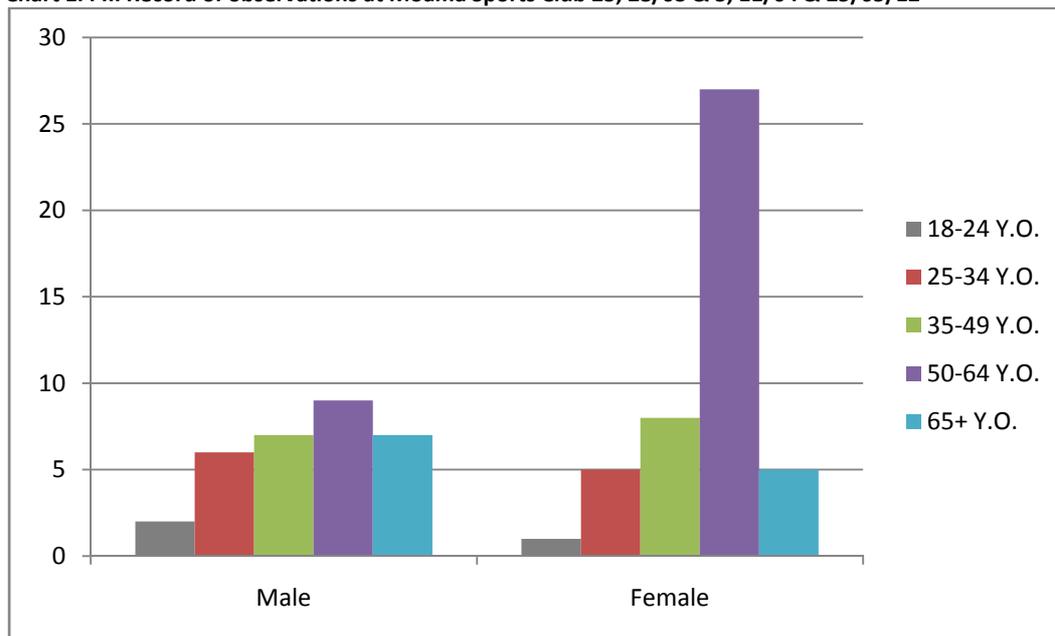
Chart 1.3 ... Record of observations at RSL Club 30/03 & 12, 20, 24/04/12



## Moama Sports Club

77 patrons were observed playing EGM's during five visits to Moama Sports Club. 40.26% were male and 59.7% were female. The 50-64 year old category comprised 46.75% of all total patrons observed. Over 60% of all patrons were aged 50 years and over and over 80% were aged 35 years and over. Fewer than 4% of patrons were aged between 18-24 years. Approximately 25% of patrons observed over the five visits were playing in pairs or groups.

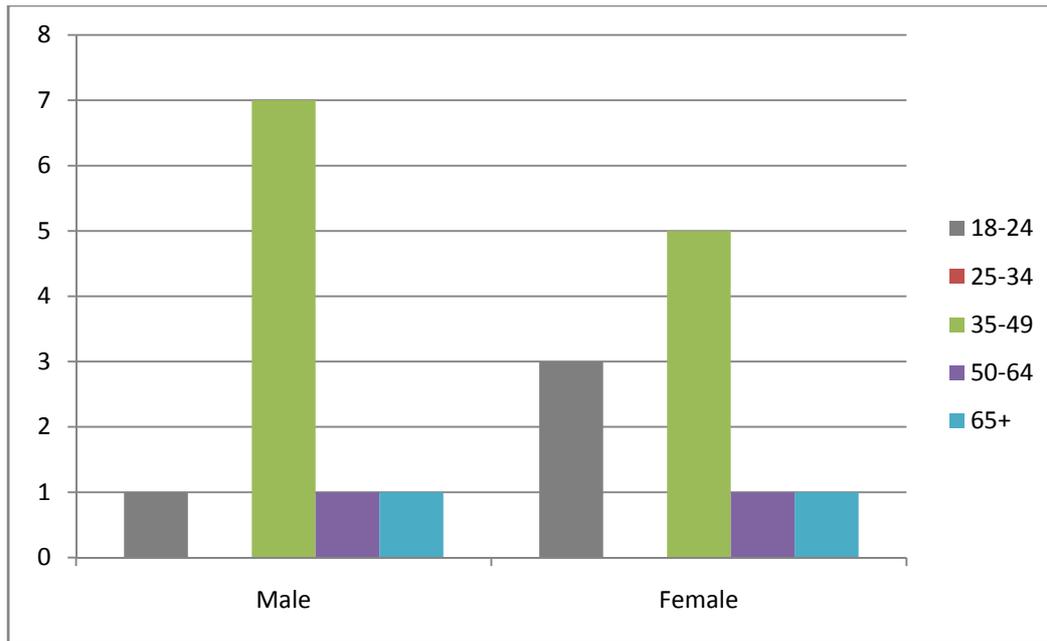
Chart 1.4 ... Record of observations at Moama Sports Club 23, 28/03 & 5, 11/04 & 25/05/12



## Border Inn Hotel

19 patrons were observed at the Border Inn Hotel during five visits conducted over varied times and days of the week. 52.6% were male and 47.4% were female. 63.16% of patrons were estimated to be aged between 35-49 years and 21% were aged between 18-24 years. No patron's in the 25-34 year old category were observed playing EGM's. It was acknowledged that numbers of patrons using EGMs at the Border Inn was subject to variations on different times and days of the week, including upon payment of welfare benefits.

Chart 2.1 ... Record of observations at Border Inn Hotel 22, 24 & 27/04, 3 & 26/05/12



### Venue manager/staff interviews

Informal interviews with the CEO of Rich River Golf Club (Moama Sports Club), Operations Manager of the Moama Bowling Club and the proprietor of the Border Inn Hotel were conducted. The CEO of the RSL club declined the offer to be interviewed by the project. Staff declined to disclose information regarding the amount of Gaming machines within the RSL club. Research undertaken by the project officer indicated this figure is approximately 140.

### Rich River Golf Club

The Chief Executive Officer of The Rich River Golf Club agreed to provide information on EGM profits, trends and demographics for both the Rich River Golf Club and Moama Sports Club.

The CEO claimed the RRG club has about 10,000 members. Half of these live in Echuca-Moama. He suggested the member male to female ratio at Rich River Golf Club is approximately 60% male- 40% female, with the majority of people who attend the club being over the age of forty. The CEO claimed many of the RRG clubs members are retired couples. On weekends, the CEO suggested that attendance is pretty much 50/50, male to female, with a higher amount of young people attending than during the week. The ratio of male to female patrons attending the club varies throughout the week, depending on club functions including golf and tennis days.

The CEO claimed that people attend the club for a many reasons and play the EGM's whilst there. The Rich River Golf Club includes resort and motel facilities and sports such as bowls, tennis, golf and croquet. It offers golf packages which mainly attract males. Most of the tennis players are female. The CEO stated, "Our (Rich River Golf Club) business demographic is probably different to other clubs nearer to town because we are a destination, not just around the corner like the bowling club. They would have a totally different market to what we have." Tourist buses occasionally visit the venue.

There are 160 EGMs at RRGCC and 77 at Moama Sports Club

The CEO claimed about 40 per cent of the business' (Rich River Golf Club) revenue comes from EGMs, stating that this figure is significantly less than other clubs in the area.

The CEO claimed that peoples gambling practices differ greatly. He claimed that some people may spend \$1000 within an hour and leave where others may sit on a machine for four hours and spend \$30. The CEO One of the biggest misconceptions is that people who sit at gaming machines for four hours have a problem. A lot of older people have one cent a push.

Courtesy buses operate 7 days per week, picking up and dropping off patrons to and from Echuca on an hourly basis, starting from 10am. The Moama Sports Club operates its courtesy bus on a Friday and Saturday night only with the Rich River Golf Club bus transporting some Moama Sports Club patrons during the week.

The code is neat casual. No hats are allowed, rubber thongs or offensively printed materials. The codes have changed. The club is basically open to everyone to attend provided they are dressed neatly and casually.

The CEO stated that "The number of self exclusions is miniscule."

The CEO stated that the he believes "a very, very small percentage of patrons are Aboriginal" and reported a low multicultural patronage.

### **Moama Bowling Club**

The Operations manager of the Moama Bowling Club provided insight and information on trends of EGM users during an interview. Although little quantitative data was provided, the Operations Manager provided accounts based on his understanding.

The Moama bowling Club has 220 machines in total. The establishment enforces a dress code of neat casual, no singlets, and hats or ripped clothing permitted. The Manager reported an approximate membership base of 15 500, 50% of which he believed to be from the Echuca Moama area. He estimated that approximately 50% of members were persons from other areas, mainly metropolitan areas such as Melbourne and Bendigo, who frequented Echuca Moama and became members of the club. The Manager estimated approximately 70% of people who attend the club are members. The operations manager believes that approximately 70% of people who attend the club play EGM's although people attend the club for many different reasons, including meals, entertainment, Bingo, Indoor Bowls and Bowls.

The manager claimed there is no noticeable difference in numbers regarding gender, reporting an even split of male to female patrons playing EGM's.

The Manager reported a broad age demographic of patrons who play EGM's, with the highest bracket in the 45-60 age group. This figure fluctuates with an older patronage during weekdays (the majority 50 to 80 years old) and a younger demographic on evenings and weekends. More patrons play on their own than in groups. People playing in groups are often loud and more animated. Patrons often attend the club together but play EGM's on their own. Many patrons play EGM's regularly, frequenting the club at consistent times. The manager reported regulars who attend on their own often form relationships with each other.

Courtesy buses perform pickups and drop offs in Echuca every half an hour after 2pm during weekdays. Pickups and drop offs occur half hourly in the evening until late on Friday and Saturday night.

### **The Border Inn**

The proprietor of the Border Inn provided information on gambling trends of EGM users. There are 30 EMS located within the Border Inn. The border Inn enforces a neat casual dress code that basically adheres to the adage, "No shirt, no shoes; no service."

The proprietor informed of a "reasonably even split" of male to female patrons, comprising people of all ages. The majority of patron's are aged between 23 to 50 or 60 years old. It was agreed that the Border Inn has a slightly younger demographic than the services Clubs. It was suggested that around 70% of patrons play EGM's alone and 30% with a partner or in groups.

The proprietor informed of significant indigenous patronage which he believes consistently increases upon payment of benefits. The proprietor believes that there are a high number of patrons not engaged in the workforce who play EGM's during week days.

The proprietor estimated that between 15 to 25% of patrons attend the premises for the exclusive reason of playing EGM's. Many patrons attend the venue to participate in other forms of gambling including punting on horse and dog racing. He stated that 86% of patrons were members of the venue's VIP program. Numbers fluctuate through holiday periods and weekends with more visitors attending the venue. The majority of patrons playing EGM's throughout the week are regulars. He claimed there were very few patrons who have self excluded. He stated that he wished more patrons would feel comfortable about seeking assistance for problem gambling if they felt they needed it but embarrassed about doing so.

## **Problem Gambling Counsellor Interview**

### **General information from problem gambling worker**

Information gathered from problem gambling workers servicing Echuca provided some insight into trends and demographics of Problem Gamblers in the Echuca area as well as motivations for people using EGM's. Comparisons were able to be drawn against trends in Bendigo, as workers servicing the Echuca area are also responsible for providing support for problem gambling in Bendigo.

Information gathered indicated that people seeking support for problem gambling in the Echuca area is significantly less than in the Bendigo area. Gambling workers reported fluctuations over different periods in the amount of people seen in Echuca, as opposed to a relatively steady stream of clients in Bendigo, although no specific or consistent trends were identified regarding times of year that numbers increased. Support workers indicated that over a twelve month period, the amount of clients seen averaged out to approximately 2 appointments per week, with approximately 20 cases. This figure does not include anonymous phone support provided to clients. Upwards of 90% of clients seen by problem gambling counsellors in Echuca related to EGM use, with a high percentage of these gambling on the Echuca side of the border.

Problem Gambling Counsellors indicated that a higher percentage of clients are males, with an approximate 70-30% male to female ratio. Of the males clients, nearly all are aged over 30, with the majority of these over 50 years of age. Approximately 75-80% of the male

clients are married, with a large number of these encouraged to seek support to address their gambling habits by their partners.

Most of the female clients are aged over the 30, with a fairly even spread of clients aged between 30 and 60.

PGC's indicated that there is no significant trend regarding cultural identity or background. The majority of clients seeking support being of white Anglo origin, three females of Filipino decent are currently clients, two of who are mother and daughter.

PGC's reported individual expenditure on EGM's by clients seeking support varies significantly between clients, with the most extreme current case being approximately \$1500 per fortnight. Clients generally claim to spend from \$200 per fortnight to \$1000 per fortnight with an average of around \$400p/f.

PGC's reported a high level of co morbidity in Problem Gamblers seeking support. Over 75% disclose high stress, anxiety and depression. Over 50% disclose problematic alcohol use. PGC's indicate that a significant number disclose sexual abuse. Many clients admitted to having suicidal thoughts and have attempted suicide in the past. These conditions and behaviours are not exclusive to either males or females or any specific age group.

Over 50% of Problem Gamblers seeking support indicated they are isolated from social activities or social groups.

The Information gathered indicated that the incidence of people self excluding from venues in the Echuca area is very low. Counsellors indicated that people seeking support for problem gambling in the Echuca area are unlikely to self exclude from venues due to confidentiality reasons. The smaller population in comparison to Bendigo means that a lot of people know each other and do not feel comfortable about self excluding.

Approximately 90% of people change their gambling habits after seeking support.

## **EGM user interviews**

*(See Appendix 1)*

50 people across 5 venues were invited to participate in informal interviews. 11 (22%) of people approached agreed to be interviewed and 39 (78%) declined. Incentives in the form of grocery vouchers were offered to patrons as encouragement to participate in interviews. The CEO of the Rich River Golf Club indicated that he was not comfortable with the concept of the project officer approaching patrons to solicit interviews. No patrons were therefore approached within the venue. The project officer was however, able source interviews from patrons of the Rich River Golf Club through other contacts. 14 Patrons from the Moama Sports Club and 14 from the RSL club were approached. Fifteen from the MBC and five from the Border Inn were approached and invited to participate in interviews. Four from MSC agreed to be interviewed. Three from the RSL Club and two from the RRGC, and Moama Bowling Club agreed to be interviewed. No patrons from the Border Inn agreed to an interview.

### **Locality of Residence**

Of the 11 patrons interviewed, 63.63% reported that they lived in the Campaspe Shire, 18.18 reported living in the Murray Shire and 18.18% lived in other places.

### **Frequency of gaming**

9.09% reported playing EGM's 6 days per week, 63.63% of patrons interviewed indicated that they play EGM's 2- 3 times per week. Two people reported playing once per fortnight and one person reported playing less than 5 times per year.

### **Spend amounts**

EGM expenditure trends varied considerably amongst patrons, with some patrons visiting venues less frequently but spending more during gaming sessions. Others reported attending venues on a regular basis but carefully managing spending amounts, gambling lower stakes and consequently spending less. One patron who regularly attends the same venue stated that she often came away from the club "breaking even," cashing in on incentive rewards for cake coffee and meals.

Of the 11 persons interviewed, one person reported spending a maximum of \$300pw; two reported spending between \$100 and \$120 pw, two reported spending between \$75 and \$100 pw and four reported spending between \$50 and \$75 per week. One person reported spending between \$25 and \$50 per week and one reported spending less than \$5 per week.

Upon inquiry, no patrons felt they had won more than they had lost on EGM's. One patron reported winning \$3000 on one occasion and stated that winning again was her motivation for playing. The average spending amount for all patrons interviewed was approximately between \$90- \$95 per week.

### **Community participation**

When asked about involvement in community organisations, clubs, sporting groups or volunteering, 45.45% reported that they do not have any other community involvement. Other responses included involvement in sporting groups, junior sport with their children or grandchildren, and one person reported being involved in a church group.

### **Employment status and educational qualifications**

54.5% of patrons interviewed reported their employment status as aged pensioner, with previous occupations including nursing, tradesman, farming and retail. Three patrons reported working in community services. 45.45% reported having no formal tertiary qualification.

### **Motivation to use EGMs**

A range of responses were recorded to the question "What is your main motivation for playing EGM's?" Patrons often gave multiple responses. 63.63% of people included social reasons in their answer. Patrons indicated that they often attended the clubs with others but played on their own. Other responses included "relaxation," "excitement" and "to win money." 45.5% reported playing with a partner.

### **Impact of Gaming**

When asked about the perceived benefits and detriments of playing EGM's, patron's responses varied considerably. Terms such as "fun", "relaxing" and "exciting was used to describe the benefits. When asked about the detriments responses included "spending more than intended," "not walking out when in front." 36.36% reported feeling some disappointment and anger at losing. One person interviewed claimed that her ex partner spent up to \$1000 per week on EGM's and attributed this to the breakdown of her marriage.

See Appendix 2 for all responses.

## 5. Discussion & Emerging Themes

The following discussion is based on professional judgements, formed impressions and personal opinion of the project worker.

The overwhelming majority of people approached and invited to participate in an anonymous interview declined. There was a noticeable reluctance among females over the age of 49 to be interviewed. It was acknowledged that males, although for the most part reluctant, were overall more agreeable to participate in an interview when approached. This could be attributed to the fact that the project officer is a male and an element of discomfort was detected amongst female patrons when approached in a gaming environment. Observations indicated that there is a high incidence of EGM users within the female 50+ demographic. It is therefore acknowledged that the project officer approached more female than male patrons with the intention of soliciting an interview to accurately reflect demographics of EGM users in the Moama area.

50 people across 4 venues were approached to participate in interviews. Ten (20%) agreed to be interviewed. 40 declined. Approximately 70% of patrons who agreed to be interviewed indicated a willingness to articulate their opinions on EGM use in general. This included giving perceived and personal accounts of gambling trends and profiles of friends, loved ones and other patrons. Patrons interviewed indicated that through their observations, many patrons attended the venue on a regular basis and spent anywhere between a few hours to a whole day playing machines. It was noted that some patrons appeared passionate about discussing gaming trends of others, many patrons and staff associated with the gaming industry believed that interviews would not give a true account of expenditure on EGM's. Some regular attendees at the venue claimed patrons were very secretive about how much they gambled and did not like to be observed, whether it be by staff members, other patrons or maintenance staff. One patron indicated that EGM use, that included spending up to \$1000 per week, contributed to marriage break down and ex partner's ill health. Another person who identified as indigenous claimed that he felt that EGM use is a "significant problem" amongst the aboriginal community.

Information obtained through patron interviews and members of the indigenous community indicated that only a very small amount of the local indigenous population chooses to play EGM's at the services club's in Moama, preferring to play at hotels including The Border Inn and a club in Echuca that has been reviewed in a previous research project (2011). This information is consistent with information gathered using other methods, including venue

observations and staff interviews. Indigenous sources also indicated that EGM use amongst the indigenous population adhered to a cycle that is consistent with payment of benefits or wages, in contrast to profiles of EGM users at the services clubs who attend on a more frequent and consistent basis. This information was also supported by observations and interviews with venue staff.

### **Key findings through observations and venue staff interviews**

- A slightly higher incidence of female to male users at the four services clubs
- An older demographic at the services clubs in comparison to hotel (pub) venue
- A high incidence of retirees participating in EGM use.
- A higher indigenous demographic at hotel venue in comparison to services clubs
- A lower socio economic demographic participating in EGM use during business hours at hotel venue
- More EGM users playing alone than with a companion or in groups
- A slightly younger demographic during peak times with a more even male to female ratio at the services clubs during peak times

### **Key findings from the patron interviews**

- Significant difference in motivations for playing EGM's in comparison to results from previous research project conducted in Campaspe Shire venues.
- 68% identified as being Shire of Campaspe residents
- The majority of patrons interviewed indicated that they attend venues for other reasons as well as playing EGM's, most commonly for meals.
- Socialisation was a key factor identified as motivation for playing.
- An overall average spending of approximately \$90 per week amongst patrons interviewed
- A belief amongst some patrons that chance of winning can be increased through routines and practices

Several patrons and interviewed claimed that through their observations some patrons, often in the 65+ age bracket, perform actions that they feel might increase their chance of winning, including rubbing or hitting the machine or trying to stop the reels whilst spinning. Anecdotal evidence provided by patrons and venue staff indicated patrons sometimes “jammed” cards in the buttons to keep machines playing automatically. Other sources claim that patrons often

display suspicion, believing maintenance staff adjusts machines to limit the likelihood of payouts. Most patrons interviewed claimed that they had been adversely affected or knew of someone negatively impacted upon by EGM use.

### **Response to request for participation in an interview**

(22%) of patrons invited to participate in an interview agreed. (78%) declined. Patrons in general appeared uncomfortable about the prospect of being interviewed but many of those who agreed gave the impression that they were more interested in talking about their perception of gambling trends and habits of others. Some suggested the project officer interview other people they knew or were acquainted with. Most of those who declined did not give a reason for doing so. There were an overwhelming number of females in the 50+ demographic approached for interviews that declined.

### **Dress code and venue atmosphere**

Whilst management of the services clubs in Moama reported a marginally higher dress standard than the hotel involved in the project, it was acknowledged that dress codes had relaxed significantly over the years. The most notable difference is the disallowance of rubber thongs, singlets, hats or offensively printed materials at the Services Clubs. The CEO of the RRG and MSC indicated that the clubs are “basically open to everyone to attend provided they are dressed neatly and casually.” The Operations manager of the Moama Bowling establishment enforces a dress code of neat casual, no singlets, and hats or ripped clothing permitted. The border Inn enforces a neat casual dress code that, according to the proprietor, basically adheres to the adage, “No shirt, no shoes; no service.” The services clubs attract an older patronage with a higher number of retirees and higher socio economic demographic amongst EGM users than the Hotel venues in the area. Anecdotal evidence suggests the dress codes cater accordingly. Two patrons who participated in interviews indicated that they attend the MBC because of its childcare facilities and superior smoking area.

### **Location and accessibility**

The RRG is located approximately 6 kilometres from the Moama CBD. The CEO of the RRG suggested that the business demographic is probably different to other clubs nearer to town because of the location. He suggested the motel facilities, sports such as golf bowls, tennis, and croquet and golf packages made the club a destination. Tourist buses occasionally visit the venue. Courtesy buses operate 7 days per week, picking up and dropping off patrons to

and from Echuca and Moama on an hourly basis, starting from 10am until late on the weekends. Tourist buses from other areas occasionally visit the venue, mostly on weekdays.

Moama Sports Club is located 1.5 kilometres from the Moama CBD. The Moama Sports Club operates its courtesy bus on a Friday and Saturday night only with the Rich River Golf Club bus transporting some Moama Sports Club patrons during the week.

The RSL is located 3.2 kilometres from the Moama CBD. The courtesy bus conducts pickups from Echuca hourly from 5pm to 8pm and from Moama hourly from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Take homes to Echuca and Moama occur from 8:30 to 11:30pm. Staff advised that the courtesy bus operates during the day based on a booking system, generally being unavailable between 3 and 5pm.

The Moama Bowling Club and the Border Inn are located within 300m of each other within the Moama CBD. Courtesy buses perform pickups and drop offs in Echuca every half an hour after 2pm during weekdays. Pickups and drop offs occur half hourly in the evening until late on Friday and Saturday night. The Border Inn operates a courtesy bus on Friday and Saturday nights and occasionally on Sundays, available by booking.

54.54% of Patrons interviewed indicated that they use courtesy buses on a regular basis.

### **Social connection**

Over 45% of people interviewed reported attending the club for the dual purpose of enjoying a meal and playing EGM's. Over 45% of patrons stated that they do not have any other community involvement, indicating that the services clubs play a significant role in their social environment. 63.63% of patrons interviewed included socialisation in their answer to the question, "what is your motivation for playing EGM's." Information gathered through methods employed throughout this project indicated that many patrons attend venues in groups or pairs but choose to play EGM's on their own. Patrons in the Border Inn were often observed communicating with one another from across the room whilst playing machines alone. Partners attending the services clubs were observed approaching one another during intervals in gaming then continuing to play alone.

Anecdotal evidence provided by venue staff indicated that gaming plays a major part in participant's social activities, reporting that the same faces can often be seen playing pokies at different times of the day throughout the week. Staff claimed that patrons would often wait for a venue to open in the morning to commence playing, sometimes continuing to play well into the afternoon. Research showed that individual's patronage is often not confined to one

venue, with patron interviews, venue observations and staff accounts indicating that patrons often attend different clubs regularly and sometimes participate in EGM use at more than one club in a day.

It is acknowledged that while participant's reasons for playing vary, social activity is a mostly a contributing motivating factor. This notion is reinforced when varying trends amongst participants are examined, with some gambling smaller amounts over a longer period of time and others "gambling big," risking higher stakes with each turn. Many of the older demographic interviewed claimed they preferred to gamble smaller amounts over a longer period. Further research into gambling specific gambling trends regarding time spent gambling vs. money spent is recommended.

Research indicated an older patronage participating in gaming machine use in comparison with other forms of gambling, especially during off peak times within the services clubs. Walker (et al 2006) suggests that slot machine playing for many older people is an "extension into another area other than eating and drinking," claiming that "older people who may have retired or whose families have left home have more time to spend in clubs and perhaps need to spend more time with friends (having lost the company of family or work mates)." This notion is supported by research conducted throughout this project.

### **Frequency of use, amount spent and impact on personal finances**

Over 60% of patrons interviewed indicated that they play EGM's two - three times per week. Of the 11 participants interviewed, two voluntarily acknowledged they had a problem with gambling, with one claiming that he had self excluded from clubs where he felt he was more likely to play EGM's, choosing to continue to attend venues where he participates in other social activities. Approximately 50% of the patrons interviewed conceded that EGM use contributed to some financial stress, with one patron claiming that problematic gambling habits of her partner contributed to the breakdown of her marriage and physical and emotional health problems. Approximately 50% of patrons interviewed did not indicate that they believed spends amounts caused significant financial distress but many claimed they became irritated or disappointed at losing money. It is noted that, as consistent with previous research conducted in the Campaspe Shire the majority of patrons provided comments that were considered justification of their spending, claiming that they took care of priorities before spending money on EGMs.

Information supplied by problem gambling counsellors indicated approximately 90% clients seen in the Echuca area related to EGM use. PGC's claimed less people seek support for gambling problems in the Campaspe Murray shires in comparison to other areas services. This could be attributed to the disparity in the demographics identified to be participating in EGM use in the Moama area in comparison with the demographic representation of people presenting for support with problem gambling. Problem gambling counsellors reported a higher number of males and a slightly younger demographic seeking support than indicated by research data relating to EGM users.

The average amount spent on EGM use by patrons averaged out to approximately \$90 per week. Problem gambling counsellors indicated extreme cases of patrons spending \$1500 per week on EGM use.

### **Venue choice and Pub vs Club patronage**

An older demographic at the services clubs is acknowledged in comparison to the hotel venue, with a notably higher number of patrons in the 65+ demographic. Information obtained through patron interviews, staff interviews and venue observations revealed a higher number of indigenous patrons participating in EGM use at the hotel venue. Staff and venue management indicated they believed the services clubs attracted a higher socio economic patronage amongst EGM users than the hotel venue. There was a more even male to female ratio observed at the hotel venue, although a more even male to female ratio was identified at the services clubs during peak hours in comparison to off peak hours. The proprietor of the Border Inn reported that patrons attend the premises to participate in other forms of gambling including horse and dog racing, often popular amongst a younger male patronage. EGM use at the Border Inn increased in adherence with a cycle consistent with the payment of welfare benefits.

The availability of courtesy buses, meal and food value, and the social environment were factors identified as making the services clubs an attractive option for the older demographic. The CEO of the RRGCC stated that people attend the venue for many reasons, including resort and motel facilities, golf, bowls tennis and croquet, often playing EGM's whilst there. One patron reported feeling at home at the RRGCC, claiming she knew most of the staff by name and often spent time chatting with them.

## **Employment/education**

Six of the 11 patrons interviewed reported some form of tertiary education, including one with a degree in social work, one with a degree in nursing, one who holds two diplomas in welfare, community and financial counselling and three with trade certificates. Of the patrons who reported no tertiary education, two reported being married to retirees and performing parenting/home duties throughout their lifetime. One reported working in the community services sector and one is currently employed as a cleaner. Previous recent research on the Campaspe shire revealed a slightly higher rate of patrons without any form of tertiary education. These figures could be attributed to the higher number of professional retirees attending the services club in the Moama area and the reluctance of Border Inn Patrons to participate in an interview.

## **Campaspe and Murray Shire Users**

Interestingly, 7 (63.63%) of patrons interviewed in the Murray shire venues resided in the Campaspe Shire, with only 2 (18.18%) residing in the Murray Shire. Two reported residing in other areas. It is suspected that this figure might vary dependant on the times and days of the week patrons were approached for interviews. Most patrons were approached during off peak times. It is acknowledged that there is a higher amount of patrons from other places attending EGM venues during weekends. The declination to be interviewed from patrons of the Border Inn may have an impact on these figures, as the venue proprietor reported many of the EGM users at the venue live locally, residing on the NSW side of the Border. The CEO of the RRGC and the Operations manager of the Moama Bowling club reported an estimated 50% of members came from places other than the Campaspe and Murray Shires. The proprietor of the Border Inn reported 86% of the patrons who attended the premises were members of the venue's VIP program, most living locally.

## **Benefit of EGMs to the local community**

In 1998 the NSW government introduced a scheme that ensures "clubs that earn over \$1 million annually in gaming machine revenue provide funding for community projects and services, and in turn receive dollar-for-dollar gaming tax deductions." (Clubs NSW, 2012)

This recognises the role clubs play in communities and enables the government to reward them accordingly. (Clubs NSW, 2012)

The CEO of the Rich River golf Club was passionate about the benefits the club provided to the community, reporting significant contributions to sporting and community groups, projects

and services. The Moama Bowling Club sponsors extensive Community and Sporting groups. It is well recognised that the Services Clubs in the Moama area provide significant support to the local community.

### **Comparison between user profiles of Shire of Campaspe & Murray Shire**

The Campaspe Shire has three venues that possess EGMs. Two of these are located in Echuca (one pub and one club) and one (club) is in Kyabram. The Southern NSW area of the Murray Shire (Moama area) has five venues, four clubs and a Pub. The volume of EGMs in the Campaspe shire is significantly less than that of the Murray Shire. Variance in demographics between the two shires is noted. Research showed a similar ratio of male to female users in the two shires; with approximately 57% of EGM users in the Murray shire being female. This is in comparison to 54% in the Shire of Campaspe, according to previous research. It is acknowledged that this figure may vary dependant on times and days of the week observations are conducted (peak and non peak) and during different periods throughout the year (holidays, different seasons.)

Nearly 70% of all EGM users observed were estimated to be over 50 years of age, in comparison to 55.35% in the Shire of Campaspe with patrons in the 65+ age bracket observed comprising approximately 40% of users within the Murray Shire, compared to 35.71% in the Shire of Campaspe.

## 6. Conclusion & Recommendations

The information collected throughout this project highlights unique demographic amongst EGM users across the Southern part of the Murray Shire. Research indicates that a prolific amount of EGM users in the Murray shire are aged over 50 years, with a large number over 65 years of age, many retired. Within this age bracket, a slightly higher proportion of female users were identified. It should be noted that EGM use amongst this demographic was higher during, but not limited to, off peak times at the services clubs. An overall higher socio economic patronage amongst EGM users was identified at the services clubs in comparison to the hotel venue.

Comparisons drawn from previous research conducted in the Shire of Campaspe indicate an older, slightly more female dominated patronage within Murray Shire venues, most notably the services clubs.

Research indicated that gaming venues in NSW impact on Shire of Campaspe residents, with a significant number of Campaspe Shire residents, most notably from Echuca, participating in EGM use at Clubs within the Moama area. It is highly likely this is due to close proximity of the two cities and the clubs being easily assessable by way of courtesy bus. The clubs are also overall a more desirable destination for retirees than the gaming venues located within Echuca.

It was identified that many people attended venues in pairs or groups but often played EGM's alone. Evidence suggests many patrons attend venues, notably the services clubs, for a meal or a coffee and snack and play EGM's as part of the package. A higher number of patrons indicated that their motivation for playing included the social aspect than those in the Campaspe shire venues. Research indicated that although some patrons concede that they have, or have in the past had problems associated with gambling, most are more comfortable to talk about perceived problems of friends, associates, or other patrons attending the same venues. It was the belief of many people interviewed that there are many patrons spending long hours and a lot of money on EGM's but are unwilling to talk about it. The fact that all patrons approached for interviews at the Border Inn hotel refused may indicate sensitivities that stem from an unwillingness to acknowledge problem gambling tendencies. An overall reluctance to be interviewed was evident amongst females between 50 and 64 years of age. This could be attributed to the fact that the project officer was a male aged below 40. It may also suggest that there is an embarrassment associated with EGM use amongst this demographic. A combination of the both, combined with the fact that people don't like to be disturbed whilst playing EGM's is likelihood.

A higher indigenous patronage was identified at the hotel venue, with information from project participants and observations indicating a very small indigenous patronage at the clubs. Research indicates an overall lower indigenous patronage in venues across the Moama area than those in the Campaspe shire, although information indicates the majority of indigenous EGM users in the Echuca-Moama area appear to frequent two venues, those being The Echuca Workers and Services Club and the Border Inn Hotel.

Research indicated that patrons seeking support for problematic gambling most commonly do so for EGM use but the demographic of those presenting to problem gambling services is highly inconsistent with those identified in this project as most likely to participate in EGM use. Key success factors of the project include strengthened partnerships with Moama EGM venues. The information provided by the participating venues, as well as the 11 EGM users has provided a more detailed understanding of the demographics of EGM users in the region.

Key challenges included a short timeframe for project implementation and completion. Engaging with Moama EGM users for interviews was also a challenge. The project was limited by a short timeframe and the small sample size of EGM users who participated in an interview. However the information provided by EGM users still provided a valuable insight into the gaming habits and motivations of EGM users.

The findings of the project will inform the continued work of PCP in addressing problem gambling. The link between EGM use and social connection is apparent in the findings of this project and previous work conducted by our PCP, and supports continued work to address social connection in the community. Activities which support EGM venues will continue, including offering Gamblers Help information, local support service information and training such as Mental Health First Aid. The findings of this project will be disseminated to key stakeholders including EGM venues and service coordination work will continue with gaming venues and local support services including St Lukes.

## Recommendations

- Further research into gaming habits and procedures displayed and notions held by users
- Acknowledgement of the different demographics of gaming machine users across different venues in future prevention strategies

- The utilisation of a worker who fits the demographic identified as the most likely to participate in EGM use (age and gender) to conduct research.
- For continued evidence-based work which aims to strengthen social connection in the community.
- For continued community education to dispel gaming machine myths

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# Appendix 1

## Patron Interview

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Male\_\_\_\_ Female\_\_\_\_

Occupation\_\_\_\_\_

Highest level of qualification \_\_\_\_\_

Social Connection

- family
- Sporting club
- Community group
- Volunteering

What motivates you to use pokies?

Why this venue?

How much time do you spend at pokies?

Do you attend alone or with others?

How much money do you spend?

How does it impact on your personal finances?

## Appendix 2

### Recorded responses from patron interviews

#### Frequency of use:

- Once a fortnight until the money runs out
- Once a fortnight for 2-3 hours
- 3 times per week
- 2-3 times per week
- 2-3 times per week
- 3 -5 times per year (when on holidays)
- Three times a week
- 6 days per week (comes for meals and to socialise with staff who know me by name)
- Three times a week
- Twice per week
- Once per week

#### Spend amounts:

- Up to \$600 per fortnight, all in one visit
- \$100 per visit (winnings often exceed this but spent again)
- Up to \$120 per week, depending on whether I win or not
- Approximately \$50 per week. Careful not to spend too much more
- \$60 per week but used to spend more. Spends less since self excluding from certain venues
- \$80 to \$100 per time, three to five times per year
- Approximately \$30 per visit, \$90 per week
- Takes \$50 per visit, 6 days per week but often breaks even.
- Approximately \$100-\$120 per week
- Maximum of \$50 per week, but my husband used to spend up to \$1000
- \$50 to \$100 per week

#### Social connection and community participation:

- “No social groups but I follow my children’s sport”
- “No, I don’t belong to any community or social groups”
- “I’m involved in the football club and enjoy other recreational pursuits such as fishing and spending time with grandkids.”
- “I do work within the community and regularly go to the Gym.”
- “I play indoor bowls at the RSL and go to a local church group during the week and on Sundays”
- “I play footy and do other stuff”

- No, I just come to the club's to socialise
- "The club is my social life, I come out here for the food and to get out of my home"
- "No, the club's are my social life."
- "Yes, I work and volunteer in community services. I'd rather go out for dinner than play pokies
- My husband and I are members of all three clubs. We follow our grandson's football nearly every week.

#### Employment status and educational qualifications:

- Social Welfare Worker
- Cleaner
- Retired mechanic, motor parts component factory supervisor.
- 2x community services worker
- Retired farmer
- Tradesman
- Always been a mother, home duties. Partner retired mechanic
- Retired nurse/Carer
- Retired auto electrician, factory worker
- Mother, home duties. Husband retired

#### Motivations to use EGMs:

- "To win money," nothing else to do."
- "I play them for fun and when you win they get a bit addictive. I won \$3000 once and I hope to do it again."
- "To socialise, day out"
- "I come to the club for a meal and socialise, and put a few bucks through the machines
- "Boredom. I recently separated and need something to do. Better than sitting at home."
- "Leisure, social activity (looks around) although I'm out here and my mates are in there!"
- "Entertainment, to pass the time."
- "Socialise, for company. Gets me out of the house"
- "To socialise, often with the missus."
- "Only attend occasionally for social reasons."
- "Relaxation"

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