

From: Y MacLeod

Sent: Friday, 13 July 2018 6:19 PM

To: gambling commission Mail in List - info

Subject: Submission re ChCh Casino Application for Licence.

Submission re Christchurch Casino Application for Licence.

I am totally against this licence being extended especially for fifteen years. Make the casino apply for a renewal on a yearly basis.

Many people's lives have been ruined by their gambling and the extensive availability of gambling at the Christchurch Casino. Many families have been destroyed because of a family members gambling of the domestic budget and even their home equity at the Christchurch Casino. I personally know of three families this has happened to.

When I was a Social Worker and on call with Oranga Tamariki five years ago a man rang and asked me to take his son because he couldn't afford his rent and had no money for food because he'd gambled his last dollar at the Christchurch Casino. This wee family was destroyed overnight.

This story is only the tip of the iceberg, many many more tragic stories will and do remain untold and while poker machines remain in the community these tragedies will only increase.

The number of gambling opportunities in the casino just ensure that the addicted gambler doesn't have a chance, moving away from one gambling opportunity when low on money just leads this gambler to another gambling opportunity.

The advertised jackpots lure these addicted gamblers further into the murky world of throw your money away into this machine and it could make you rich.

After the initial euphoria of a casino in Christchurch most savvy people left the pokies alone and didn't return. The Christchurch Casino only serves to wring the last dollars from a large group of low socio economic people who should not be gambling in the first place.

Deny the Christchurch Casino the licence!. Tourism will not suffer and there are no other good reasons to continue this licence.

The only benefit to continue the licence for the Christchurch Casino is for the shareholders who make millions of dollars and pay very little tax.

Refuse the Christchurch an extension to their current license.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this submission.

Yvonne MacLeod

(Personal information removed)