

Have you signed the online petition yet?

City of Whittlesea residents will lose \$293,000 to poker machines **today**. They will lose another \$293,000 **tomorrow**. And **every day** between now and the State Government election on 24 November. In fact, our community will lose more than \$36 million before we go to the polls. Send a message to all the political parties that the harm associated with poker machines needs to end. **Take action at pokiesplaywhittlesea.org.au** And then forward this on to your networks so they too can make a difference.

Mayors launch biggest local government push yet for gambling reform

Yesterday marked the four month countdown to the state election. To mark the occasion, Whittlesea Mayor, Cr Kris Pavlidis joined Mayors from four major metropolitan councils and the Reverend Tim Costello to publicly call for legislative reforms to harmful poker machines. Alliance director and spokesman, Mr Costello welcomed the unprecedented commitment of Victoria's local government leaders to addressing Australia's world record levels of gambling harm. "These Councils are at the coal face of gambling harm and I sincerely welcome the commitment of their mayors to the cause of fixing this blight on Australian society," Mr Costello said.



Key agencies strive for 10,000 signatures

Key community agencies have jumped behind the **Pokies Play Whittlesea** campaign and have pledged to help achieve 10,000 signatures calling for legislative reforms to stop harmful poker machines. The Whittlesea Community Futures Network (WCF) which comprises 66 major agencies such as Whittlesea Community Connections, The Salvation Army, Brotherhood of St Laurence and YMCA are proudly displaying **Pokies Play Whittlesea** posters and signing up people to the campaign's online petition. WCF advocacy chairperson and Senior Manager with The Salvation Army Crossroads Network, Carmen Faelis, said the harm that our community experienced due to pokie addiction was linked to family breakdown, domestic violence, crime and financial stress. "These issues are real and agencies like ours see the families torn apart by these issues every day," Ms Faelis said. Target 10,000 is about 100 people each getting 100 postcards signed. If we all just do our little bit we can make a big difference. To become a Target 10,000 ambassador email pokiesplaywhittlesea@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

PHOTO: Carmen Faelis WCF advocacy chairperson and senior manager with The Salvation Army Crossroads Network, Glyn Davies, CEO YMCA, Bianca Opasini - prevention coordinator, Whittlesea Community Connections, Alex Haynes - CEO Whittlesea Community Connections.

