



Pacific Paradise Bowls Club Inc.

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President: T.Hawke

Secretary: B.Oberhardt

Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission to the inquiry.

We are an incorporated bowls club in the town of Pacific Paradise just north of the Maroochy River in Queensland. The club was established in 1963 and officially opened in 1964.

The club came about following a meeting of the Mudjimba Progress Association held in the Canegrowers Hall on 26th January 1962. The purpose of the meeting was to establish the formation of a new bowling club at Pacific Paradise.

A Mr. Saul Kallay, who was responsible for the development of Pacific Paradise as a town, employed a carpenter to dismantle an old house in Coolum and build a club house on land donated by Mr. Kallay. He also engaged a bulldozer to scoop up soil nearby to form a green. He asked the pupils of nearby Bli Bli School to bring blue couch grass for the green. They took bundles of several different varieties and helped plant them.

Since this time, the building has been extended 5 times. Most of this has been work by volunteer labour. The most recent renovation was made with a million dollar loan which we now have to repay. This particular area of the Sunshine Coast has been really fast developing. To keep up with the changing demographics the club has also had to keep up. From its humble beginnings the club has developed into a necessary community venue. Our club services the needs of some 2500 members, mostly social but many regular participants in the sport of bowls. We have members on hand to assist any one in difficulty for driving to doctors appointments etc. We also sponsor our local school Parents & Citizens association, as well as nearby Mudjimba surf club and various other small sporting clubs.

We have a restaurant/bistro which provides cheaper meals, bar, and of course a gaming lounge with some 34 poker machines. Our courtesy bus, services the needs of several retirement villages in the area. To some of these people the Bowls club is their main source of entertainment and community interaction.

Our club has a permanent manager and up to 28 casual staff, all from the local area. They are well trained and fully familiar with all aspects of responsible service of alcohol and all aspects of gambling.

Revenue from poker machines is an essential part of our finances. Interference with this could see us in severe financial difficulty. Due to the age group of a lot of our members, changes such as the proposed pre determination, could lead to stress problems.

All of our staff are trained in responsible gambling and because of the closeness of the community our staff are able to spot quite quickly any problems with individuals.

Ours is a true community club and any interference with our sources of revenue could jeopardize our future.

Yours sincerely,

B.Oberhardt

Hon. Secretary.

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