

Sue Pinkerton is a Registered Nurse with 36 years of nursing practice.

In 1995, after half a lifetime of “gambling responsibly”, Sue came into contact with (and fell victim to) the most pernicious of all gambling products ever developed – the poker machine. By 1999, Sue had spent an estimated \$65,000 on poker machines – all that she earned in that time, plus some of her husbands income. In the depths of her addiction, Sue spent up to 6 hours a day, 5 days a week gambling on poker machines.

On quitting the pokies in 1999, Sue began searching the globe for information on poker machines and how they entrap one in four regular users of them. In 2002, Sue began sharing what she discovered about gambling machine addiction, and today regularly communicates with problem gamblers, researchers, clinicians, activists and politicians in 12 different countries around the globe.

Disturbed by what she discovered, Sue and two other women who had been also addicted to pokies formed Duty of Care Inc - a not for profit organisation whose aim was to educate the public about poker machines, to advocate on behalf of - and support - the estimated 1.5 million Australians who have been harmed by gambling machines, and to lobby local and state governments for the removal of poker machines from residential suburbs.

A passionate and committed anti-pokies activist, Sue has spoken at numerous conferences within Australia, New Zealand, the USA and Canada of her experience with gambling machines and continues to challenge the common but unfounded notion that poker machines are a safe form of entertainment for all but a few.

Sue lives in South Australia with her three children and continues to earn a living as a Registered Nurse. Whilst having quit the pokies, Sue continues to “gamble responsibly” buying the occasional Lotto ticket, and occasionally going to bingo and the races with friends.