

Summary of Key achievements

- Council has amended all lease agreements, funding arrangements and grants programs to ensure they comply with the EGM Policy.
- Council has played a significant role to support sport clubs to divest from EGM revenue and the reliance on EGMs.
- In 2019 Council successfully negotiated to stop a further planning application for an additional 15 EGMS which could have added the organisation's poker machine count from 65 to 80.
- The 'Libraries After Dark' program was initially piloted and additionally, funded by Council. This has allowed Libraries to remain open until 10pm on Tuesdays at Reservoir and Thursdays at Preston each week. By June 2021, over 5,700 people attended the library during these additional hours and 2,060 attended the Libraries After Dark events. This program continues to be delivered.
- A local EGM planning policy has commenced. The policy will contribute to Council's Planning Scheme review and provide an opportunity for EGM planning restrictions to be embedded into the planning scheme.

Advocacy highlights

Council advocacy initiatives have been strengthened through partnership with the Alliance for Gambling Reforms. This has enabled Council to continue being recognised as a state-wide leader in driving changes to reform those systems and structures that cause gambling-related harm to the Darebin community. Council has participated annually in 'Pokies Play You' advocacy campaign designed by the Alliance for Gambling Reform. The campaign highlights to the Darebin community the daily losses to EGMs in Darebin and provides an opportunity to educate and raise awareness amongst residents of the harms and losses associated with EGMs.