

FACT SHEET

THE POKIES: MYTHS & FACTS

What are your chances of winning on the 'pokies'?

Pokies are programmed to pay out less than you put into them, so the odds are you will lose.

Some forms of gambling such as 'poker machines' are influenced completely by chance - in other words there is no way to know what the outcome will be.

The more sessions you play on a poker machine, the more likely you are to lose.

THE POKER MACHINE IS ALWAYS THE WINNER. THINK ABOUT THESE FACTS...

Myth: 'I know that if I hit the button on the machine at just the right moment, I can stop the reels at a winning combination'

Fact: Gaming machines use software that runs a Random Number Generator (RNG). The RNG continuously cycles through numbers. When you hit the play button the RNG picks a combination at random at that given microsecond. Anything you do after this initial press will have no influence on the outcome of the game.

Myth: 'The person who played the machine after me won big. I should have kept playing as that win would have been mine'

Fact: Each combination produced by the gaming machine is completely random. This means that the next winning combination on a machine is not predictable. Each spin is a random occurrence which has no bearing on what has happened previously or is about to happen.

Myth: 'My gaming machine hasn't paid out for a while, it is therefore due for a win'

Fact: The outcome of a game is random and not predictable. You may win on your next spin, or lose the next ten. It is totally random.

Myth: 'If you bet in a certain pattern you have more chance of winning'

Fact: The outcome of each game is completely random.

Myth: 'If I cash out after every win, it will increase my chance of winning'

Fact: A player who cashes out after every win has exactly the same chance of winning as a player who does not cash out. Cashing out has no influence on the outcome of game.

Myth: 'If you put enough money into a poker machine you will eventually win'

Fact: Poker machines are programmed to pay out less money than is put into them

Myth: 'Some poker machines are luckier than others'

Fact: Each poker machine is simply a computer programmed to give random results.

Myth: 'Gaming machines tend to pay out at higher amounts or more frequently at certain times of the day'

Fact: The outcome of all games is random. Winning or losing combinations are not linked to clocks or calendars.

GETTING HELP

The Gambling Helpline can help you deal with any of your gambling related problems: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

1800 858 858

There is a Gambling Help Service in your local area, to help you. However, you can access any Gambling Help Service across the state if you do not wish to seek help in your own area.

Gambling Help Services offer:

- Free, confidential and professional help in a non-judgmental environment
- Counselling and therapy for individuals, couples, family and friends
- Financial counselling to help sort out your financial problems
- Information and support
- Support groups (where available)

Visit www.problemgambling.sa.gov.au for more information.

GAMBLING HELP ONLINE

Gambling Help Online provides 24/7 live and email counselling and support services (via chat or email). It's free, easy, convenient and available to anyone affected by gambling.

Visit www.gamblinghelponline.org.au for immediate and anonymous help.

GAMBLING HELP SERVICES

Gambling Help Services provide FREE and confidential counselling and assistance

METROPOLITAN SERVICES

Eastern

- Relationships Australia SA Tel: 08 8223 4566 (Adelaide)

Northern

- Relationships Australia SA Tel: 08 8250 6600 (Salisbury, Elizabeth and Ridgehaven)

Southern

- Relationships Australia SA Tel: 08 8377 5400 (Oaklands Park including Noarlunga and Aldinga outreach)

Western

- Relationships Australia SA Tel: 08 8340 2022 (Port Adelaide)
Tel: 08 8245 8100 (Hindmarsh)

COUNTRY SERVICES

Adelaide Hills

- Relationships Australia SA Tel: 08 8223 4566 (Mount Barker outreach)

Barossa

- Relationships Australia SA Tel: 08 8250 6600 (Gawler and Nuriootpa outreach)
Tel: 1800 182 325 (Country Free Call)

Eyre and Western

- UnitingCare Wesley Country SA Tel: 1300 456 946 (Whyalla and Port Lincoln)

Far North

- UnitingCare Wesley Country SA Tel: 1300 456 946 (Port Augusta)

Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island

- Relationships Australia SA Tel: 08 8377 5400 (Victor Harbor and Kingscote outreach)
Tel: 1800 182 325 (Country Free Call)

Limestone Coast

- Lifeline South East (SA) Tel: 08 8723 2299 (Mount Gambier)

Murray Mallee

- Relationships Australia SA Tel: 08 8582 4122 (Berri, including Waikerie, Loxton and Renmark outreach)
Tel: 08 8223 4566 (Murray Bridge outreach)
Tel: 1800 182 325 (Country Free Call)

Yorke and Mid North

- UnitingCare Wesley Country SA Tel: 1300 456 946 (Port Pirie and Kadina)

TARGETED SERVICES

Aboriginal Gambling Help Services

- Flinders University Tel: 08 8182 4911 (North/West Metro)
Tel: 08 8204 6982 (Southern Metro)
- Aboriginal Family Support Services Tel: 08 8641 0907 (Port Augusta)
Tel: 08 8582 3192 (Berri)
Tel: 0418 499 649 (Murray Bridge)
Tel: 08 8683 1909 (Port Lincoln)
- Ceduna Koonibba Aboriginal Health Service Tel: 08 8626 2600 (Ceduna)

Aboriginal Gambling Therapy Service

- Southern Adelaide Local Health Network Tel: 08 8204 6982 (Adelaide)

Cambodian Gambling Help Service

- Relationships Australia SA Tel: 08 8245 8100 (Hindmarsh)

Chinese Gambling Help Service

- Overseas Chinese Association Tel: 08 8445 1677 (Findon)

Vietnamese Gambling Help Service

- Community Access and Services SA Tel: 08 8447 8821 (Athol Park)

Multicultural Gambling Help Service

- Relationships Australia SA Tel: 08 8245 8100 (Hindmarsh)

Criminal Justice Gambling Help Service

- Offenders Aid and Rehabilitation Service Tel: 08 8218 0700 (Adelaide)

Intensive Therapy Gambling Help Service

- SA State Intensive Gambling Help Service Tel: 08 8232 3333 (Metro/Country)

Lived Experience in Gambling Program

- Relationships Australia SA Tel: 08 8245 8100 (Hindmarsh)

Gambling Helpline

- For immediate help 24/7 free and confidential Tel: 1800 858 858

Gambling Help Online

- For 24/7 free online counselling www.gamblinghelponline.org.au

Funded through
the Gamblers
Rehabilitation Fund



Government of South Australia
Department for Communities
and Social Inclusion

