

**Media release: POKER MACHINE MONEY LAUNDERING INQUIRY**

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The Commissioner of the NSW Crime Commission, Michael Barnes, today invited submissions to the Commission's inquiry into money laundering in pubs and clubs.

"Working with the Independent Liquour and Gaming Authority and the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, we've established that last year \$85 billion was gambled in poker machines in pubs and clubs in NSW," Mr Barnes said.

"We simply don't know how much of that was the proceeds of crime being laundered by or on behalf of criminal syndicates, but when so much money is involved it is reasonable to suspect some level of criminal activity.

"We aren't starting with any preconceptions about the extent of that criminal activity. We know pubs and clubs deliver valuable community services and we are assured ClubsNSW, the peak body for the industry, is committed to stamping out illegality.

"However, we expect the expert investigators, data analyst, lawyers and intelligence officers working on this project will uncover activities not previously known to operators or regulators that will assist to ensure pubs and clubs stay profitable while the community is protected," Mr Barnes said.

As part of the inquiry, the Commission is calling for submissions regarding the nature and extent of money laundering through licensed venues in NSW. Members of the public, academics with an interest in the area, current or past employees of pubs or clubs are invited to make submissions which can be kept confidential if desired.

Read the inquiry's terms of reference and how to make a submission. The deadline for submissions is **28 January 2022**.

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