

5. NOTICES OF MOTION

The following Notice of Motion was submitted by Paul McMahon.

“Due to the earthquakes, many pubs, clubs and restaurants have had their venues and/or their pokie machines damaged. While the desire to replace what has been damaged in full and to replicate activities on new sites is understandable, it is in contravention to the Council's sinking-lid policy.

The Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board asks that the Christchurch City Council strictly enforce the sinking lid policy with regard to 'pokies', specifically by:

1. Forbidding the relocation of pokies from premises unable to be opened due to earthquake damage to new premises (for instance by refusing to grant new or replacement Class 4 Gambling Licenses).
2. Forbidding the replacement of pokies where the premises have been earthquake-damaged.
3. Asking the Department of Internal Affairs for assistance in enforcing the above.

Some people may object that it is unfair for the Council to use the earthquake as an opportunity to push the sinking lid down and that it would be placing further pressure on businesses that are already struggling. However, under the Gambling Act (2003) it is illegal for a business to rely on pokie funds to maintain a profit (DIA info sheet **attached**), and so it cannot be a consideration in the Council's enforcement of the sinking-lid.

PGFNZ says that pokie spending is up \$4M this quarter (The Press, 27/07/2011 and 13/11/2010 **attached**) compared to the same time last year. It is an increasing problem since the earthquake and can only be impacting negatively on families. This also serves to undermine the argument that asserts community groups will miss out on funding if the sinking lid is enforced - they clearly will not.

The sinking lid policy is in place because there is broad political and social consensus in Christchurch that pokies cause social harm and need to be drastically reduced (with the overwhelming majority of submissions on the review of the sinking lid policy in favour of the policy): in light of this on 10/2/2011 Council sent a Notice of Motion to the Regulation and Planning Committee, in favour of writing to Parliament in support of the Gambling (Gambling Harm Reduction) Bill.”