

I am a highly trained professional person in the medical sphere, and I've been gambling since 1990.

Early on I used to go in with \$20, that lasted an hour, that was ok and then I left, then it became more and more - \$100+.

I started gambling at the temporary Crown casino, I was spending about \$50 at a time then.

It then became more frequent, from once a fortnight to once a week, to every day, to the point now where I start with \$300-400 dollars, when I lost that I go get more, it can be as much as \$2k in one session.

In the job I had 15 years ago, I was paid weekly, on Tuesday night. I would go into Crown 10-11 pm on Tuesdays and spend most/all of my pay packet for that week. Sometimes I kept some for urgent bills. I was sometimes there at 6.30 am pressing one-cent bets at a time just to keep going and my husband would ring me to see where I was.

No one ever asked me if I was ok. I never saw them ask anyone else if they were ok.

I had a Crown loyalty card that gave me access to a special room, parking, free drinks which made me feel special.

In the time I have gambled I probably would have spent at least \$600k.

I've wasted so much money that I could have used to secure my future, I've wasted part of my life that could have been so different.

I feel devastated that I can't stop when I want to so much.

For the last 20 years, I have tried unsuccessfully to stop gambling, used many help services including therapeutic counselling, groups, hypnotherapy, mindfulness,

When the machines are designed by addiction experts/psychologist to make sure you become addicted it makes nonsense of the concept that this is just a bit of fun.

I'm a highly intelligent person, a perfectionist, in fact, not a stupid person, but I have no control over this, I want to stop. I have not been successful yet.

My son worked at the Casino in the high stakes room at the time, he told me that the toilets were often closed and at times this was because someone had suicided and had to be removed without the public seeing/knowing.

He also told me that he witnessed people at the tables, staying for very long times and urinating on the floor.

He told of a man who ran out of money, he would go out to the car park, have oral sex with someone and come back and keep gambling.