



**The Retailers Association**

*Serving Members Australia Wide™*

## MEDIA RELEASE

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## 110 Pokies per Australian

***Driscoll: "Retailers Could Cut Unemployment in Half Without Pokies Scurge"***

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**Scott Driscoll**, National Executive Director of **The Retailers Association** has called on Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to intervene and curtail the States drunk on Pokies revenue, for the sake of job creation, if protecting families wasn't enough.

"With Australia now in the "**World's Top 10**" poker machine countries, with a Pokie per 110 Australians, we are killing off jobs and industry, so that our Governments can get fat on Pokies blood money at the expense of lives and jobs," said Mr Driscoll.

"As well as families suffering more with the growth of Pokies numbers across Australia, the retail sector suffers dramatically also as the Pokies plague spreads. People who can least afford to pour their wages down the throats of Pokies, in turn reduce spending on food, clothes and household essentials for their families. This has been a serious retail trend since Pokies emerged in Australia," said Mr Driscoll.

"Most of the **\$10Billion** that now goes into Pokies each year in Australia used to be spent across the retail sector. It used to support the creation of real jobs," said Mr Driscoll.

"If we wiped out Pokies overnight and returned that same **\$10Billion** to where it used to be spent we would halve the unemployment rate in Australia tomorrow and could create **303,000 new retail jobs**," said Mr Driscoll.

**For further comment call Scott Driscoll on 0413 831 045.**