**[NSW residents lost record $8.1 billion to poker machines in 2023](https://www.9news.com.au/national/nsw-residents-gambled-and-lost-8-billion-to-poker-machines-in-2023/aea0c6d9-25e5-46e0-b410-6e4841bdbbe1)**

NineNews **[By Mark Saunokonoko • Senior Journalist](https://www.9news.com.au/meet-the-team/digital/mark-saunokonoko)** :45am May 8, 2024

People in NSW lost a record $8.1 billion on poker machines last year, with the heaviest losses suffered in Sydney's most disadvantaged neighbourhoods, new data reveals.

Anti-gambling group Wesley Mission also found the number of [poker machines](https://www.9news.com.au/pokies) in NSW grew by almost 1000 to 87,545 in 2023, despite a ﻿state government commitment to reduce the figure.

The $8.1 billion lost was an increase of $29 million from the previous year, the group said, and the equivalent of $1000 for every adult and child in the state.

There are 86,500 poker machines in NSW clubs and pubs, the highest profits were generated by machines in western Sydney, Liquor and Gaming NSW figures show.

Wesley Mission chief executive Reverend Stu Cameron said the losses highlighted the need for the Minns government to urgently deliver more [gambling](https://www.9news.com.au/gambling) reform.

The next step, he urged, was "powering down poker machines between midnight and 10am" because of increased danger of harm to people gambling in those hours.

The 2023 data showed a rise in losses on the 22,488 poker machines in hotels, while losses in clubs had begun to plateau.