

**EMBARGOED FOR 6:00AM FRIDAY 20 January 2012**

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**ALERT, SYDNEY: 1:00PM**

## **STOP THE LOSS COALITION LAUNCHES TO FIGHT FOR POKER MACHINE REFORM**

- What:** Press conference to launch the Stop the Loss Coalition; and Volunteers will also be handing out copies of a new direct-mail campaign piece with message from Tim Costello.
- When:** 1:00pm, Friday 20 January 2012.
- Where:** Martin Pl (cnr Macquarie St), Sydney City.
- Who:** Andrew Wilkie MP;  
Senator Nick Xenophon;  
Reverend Tim Costello (Chair, Churches Gambling Taskforce);  
Lin Hatfield Dodds (National Director, Uniting Care);  
Simon Sheikh (National Director, GetUp);  
Sue Cato (Strategic Advisor, Stop the Loss Coalition);  
Neil Lawrence (Communications Advisor, Stop the Loss Coalition);  
Kate Roberts (Chair, Gambling Impact Society); and

This afternoon at 1:00pm in Martin Place, a new Coalition will launch to fight for poker machine reform.

Stop the Loss Coalition is a group of community organisations dedicated to preventing pokie addiction through effective gambling reform.

Founding Coalition members include Uniting Care, Anglicare, the Gambling Impact Society, PokieACT, GetUp and the Catholic Social Services.

The Coalition will launch with a direct-mail marketing campaign, with one million letters being sent to homes in marginal electorates across the country. Copies of the direct-mail piece will be handed out at this afternoon's press event.