

NSW Poker Machine Loss Data Analysis Q1 2026





Executive Summary



NSW lost \$2.37 billion on poker machines in the first three months of 2026 — a 9.4 per cent increase on the same quarter last year. That equates to around \$26.4 million every day, or just over \$1.1 million every hour. And is the highest Q1 year-on-year increase since COVID.

This continues a clear upward and escalating trend. Quarter one losses have risen every year from \$1.82 billion in 2022 to \$2.37 billion in 2026, an increase of more than \$550 million over four years. Over the same period, despite the government's rhetoric about reducing machine numbers, the number of pokies has remained broadly unchanged, meaning more money

is being lost through the same system – a system finely tuned to addict.

These losses are not spread evenly. While pokies losses touch every postcode and demographic in NSW, the highest per-capita losses are concentrated in a relatively small number of communities concentrated in Western Sydney and parts of regional NSW. Sydney, Canterbury-Bankstown, Fairfield and Cumberland LGAs alone lost well over \$136 million each in just three months, while in regional NSW, areas like the Central Coast lost more than \$90 million in the same period.

For Wesley Mission, these are not just eye-wateringly large numbers — they represent money drained from household budgets and local communities in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis. This is money that could otherwise be spent on rent, groceries, bills, education and recovery from hardship. The fact that losses are rising fastest in communities already under pressure is scandalous.

What stands out most in this data is its consistency. The pattern is not changing. Losses are growing, and they are being drawn from the same places year after year.

Without stronger action, this trend will continue — with billions of dollars flowing out of communities and into poker machines, and the burden falling most heavily on those least able to afford it. Only real, proportionate and evidence-based reform will break this misery-making cycle.

Yours sincerely,

Rev. Stu Cameron
CEO & Superintendent



Contents

NSW Poker Machine Loss Data Analysis Quarter 1 2026	3
Headline Figures	3
By venue type	3
Q1 Comparison (2022 – 2026)	4
Losses by Local Government Area	5
Metropolitan New South Wales – Top 20.....	5
Regional New South Wales – Top 10	7



NSW Poker Machine Loss Data Analysis

Quarter 1 2026

This analysis is based on data published by the [NSW Office of Liquor & Gaming in its quarterly gaming machine reports](#), covering poker machine losses across clubs and hotels in New South Wales.

Headline Figures

NSW residents lost \$2.37 billion on poker machines in the first three months of 2026, up \$204.4 million or 9.4 per cent on the same quarter last year. There were 87,956 poker machines operating across clubs and hotels in Q1 2026 — an increase of 167 machines compared with Q1 2025. That equates to losses of around \$26.4 million a day, or nearly \$1.1 million every hour.

Total Losses Q1 2026	\$2,374,063,864
Total losses Q1 2025	\$2,169,617,069
Change from Q1 2025	+\$204.4m (+9.4%)
Total Electronic Gaming Machines (EGMs) Q1 2026	87,956 (+167 YoY)
Daily losses Q1 2026	\$26,378,487 per day
Hourly losses Q1 2026	\$1,099,104 per hour
Average loss per EGM Q1 2026	\$26,992 per machine

By venue type

Clubs generated \$1.36 billion in losses in Q1 2026 across 65,443 machines in 986 venues, while hotels generated \$1.01 billion across 22,513 machines in 1,130 venues. Both sectors recorded year-on-year growth in losses, despite fewer venues in operation than a year earlier. Hotel poker machines generated more than double the losses per machine compared with clubs.

Venue type	Net losses (Q1 2026)	# EGMs (Q1 2026)	# Premises (Q1 2026)	% of losses (Q1 2026)	Average loss per EGM (Q1)
Clubs	\$1,359,643,384 (+9% YoY)	65,443 (+203 YoY)	986 (-10 YoY)	57.3%	\$20,870 (+8.7% YoY)
Hotels	\$1,014,420,480 (+10% YoY)	22,513 (-36 YoY)	1,130 (-17 YoY)	42.7%	\$45,050 (+10.2% YoY)
Overall	\$2,375,063,864 (+9.4% YoY)	87,956 (+167)	2,116 (-27 YoY)	100	\$26,992 (+9.2% YoY)



Q1 Comparison (2022 – 2026)

Q1 statewide losses have risen every year from \$1.82 billion in 2022 to \$2.37 billion in 2026 — an increase of about \$552.6 million over four years. The 9.4 per cent year-on-year growth in 2026 is the highest since the COVID period, indicating losses are beginning to accelerate again after several years of steady increases. Over the same period, the total number of EGMs has remained comparatively stable, increasing only from 87,278 to 87,956 machines.

Q1 year	Clubs losses	Hotels losses	Total losses	YoY change	Total EGMs
2022	\$1,045,415,317	\$776,084,548	\$1,821,499,865	—	87,278
2023	\$1,133,908,753	\$813,954,278	\$1,947,863,031	+6.9%	86,872
2024	\$1,179,438,186	\$868,693,872	\$2,048,132,058	+5.1%	87,612
2025	\$1,247,557,750	\$922,059,319	\$2,169,617,069	+5.9%	87,789
2026	\$1,359,643,384	\$1,014,420,480	\$2,374,063,864	+9.4%	87,956



Losses by Local Government Area

Metropolitan New South Wales – Top 20

Losses remain heavily concentrated in a small number of LGAs, with Western and South-Western Sydney continuing to dominate.

Rank	LGA	Combined Loss	Daily losses	# EGMs	ppl/EGM	Losses per person	Comparison to 2025 Q1 (%)	Forecast 2026 annual loss figure
1	Canterbury-Bankstown	\$198,816,913	\$2,209,077	4,959	74.8	\$535.89	+6.9%	\$886.8m
2	Fairfield	\$186,070,156	\$2,067,446	3,822	54.5	\$892.53	+9.7%	\$824.8m
3	Cumberland	\$136,217,107	\$1,513,523	2,716	86.7	\$578.57	+6.2%	\$600.0m
4	Sydney	\$104,478,273	\$1,160,870	3,252	65.1	\$493.68	+8.9%	\$512.4m
5	Blacktown	\$103,961,609	\$1,155,129	2,836	139.9	\$262.02	+10.3%	\$509.5m
6	Parramatta	\$78,524,860	\$872,498	1,888	136.0	\$305.87	+10.0%	\$369.7m
7	Georges River	\$75,790,526	\$842,117	2,097	72.6	\$497.72	+6.7%	\$354.3m
8	Penrith	\$66,516,331	\$739,070	2,469	88.2	\$305.59	+14.3%	\$323.9m
9	Campbelltown	\$61,521,704	\$683,574	1,904	92.7	\$348.53	+9.1%	\$285.3m
10	Burwood–Strathfield*	\$60,793,506	\$675,483	922	93.1	\$708.47	+12.9%	\$310.8m
11	Liverpool	\$59,114,235	\$656,825	1,434	162.8	\$253.22	+17.5%	\$281.8m
12	Bayside	\$48,536,434	\$539,294	1,524	115.0	\$277.06	+6.5%	\$227.6m
13	Inner West	\$42,629,872	\$473,665	1,744	104.8	\$233.18	+3.5%	\$200.5m



14	Ryde	\$42,522,253	\$472,469	1,197	107.9	\$329.32	+17.3%	\$195.4m
15	Northern Beaches	\$39,916,905	\$443,521	2,029	129.9	\$151.46	+8.8%	\$181.4m
16	Sutherland	\$36,464,216	\$405,158	1,922	119.8	\$158.39	+3.1%	\$169.8m
17	Camden	\$32,541,368	\$361,571	689	173.2	\$272.71	+12.8%	\$152.9m
18	The Hills	\$30,394,158	\$337,713	926	207.2	\$158.41	+0.7%	\$146.7m
19	Randwick	\$29,988,737	\$333,208	1,302	103.1	\$223.38	+5.7%	\$139.8m
20	Canada Bay-Hunters Hill-Lane Cove*	\$21,926,509	\$243,628	995	142.9	\$154.22	+8.7%	\$110.7m

* Some LGAs are grouped differently across the government datasets, with certain areas combined in club reporting but reported separately in hotel data. Where necessary, Wesley Mission has harmonised these by aggregating the underlying LGAs to enable accurate, like-for-like comparisons.



Regional New South Wales – Top 10

The same pattern is reflected in regional NSW, with a small number of LGAs accounting for the majority of losses.

Rank	LGA	Combined Loss	Daily losses	# EGMs	ppl/EGM	Losses per person	Comparison to 2025 Q1 (%)	Forecast 2026 annual loss figure
1	Central Coast	\$90,663,214	\$1,007,369	4,468	77.6	\$261.58	+8.0%	\$402.1m
2	Wollongong	\$54,618,859	\$606,876	2,704	79.4	\$254.56	+12.2%	\$243.6m
3	Newcastle	\$52,082,992	\$578,700	2,705	62.4	\$308.42	+9.6%	\$250.4m
4	Lake Macquarie	\$43,799,126	\$486,657	2,474	86.4	\$204.82	+11.4%	\$210.0m
5	Tweed	\$30,304,276	\$336,714	1,905	51.1	\$311.16	+9.2%	\$138.2m
6	Shoalhaven	\$27,335,214	\$303,725	1,659	65.4	\$251.87	+8.2%	\$110.7m
7	Mid-Coast	\$24,451,101	\$271,679	1,370	70.5	\$253.17	+9.8%	\$106.1m
8	Port Macquarie-Hastings	\$22,026,396	\$244,738	1,192	72.8	\$253.87	+12.0%	\$102.1m
9	Queanbeyan-Palerang	\$20,504,795	\$227,831	771	82.1	\$323.91	+9.7%	\$91.7m
10	Port Stephens	\$19,567,982	\$217,422	928	81.1	\$259.95	+5.9%	\$85.2m

Contact

Kathryn Allan
Campaign Lead, Gambling Reform
Kathryn.allan@wesleymission.org.au