



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Essendon members send clear anti-pokies message

No Pokies at Essendon (NoPE) Inc congratulates anti-pokies campaigner, Graham Evans on receiving 2,697 votes at the recent election of Essendon board members.

The final vote as reported by the Club at its AGM was: Kevin Sheedy 5,380, Tim Roberts 5422, Graham Evans 2697. Given that each eligible voter at this election had two votes to cast (for two board positions), this means that as many as 40% of voters selected an anti-pokies candidate.

This is a remarkable result and sends a clear message to Essendon and the AFL that the Essendon community does not support the club's investment in poker machine licences.

This result emphasises that Essendon members are not happy that the Club has enabled gamblers to lose a combined total of \$14,721,208 over the past financial year at its two venues.

In comments at last night's AGM, Essendon President Dave Barham foreshadowed that the club was looking at finding ways to replace gambling revenues. Acknowledging the message sent by fans who voted for Graham Evans, Barham told attendees at the AGM: "It's a lot of votes - So I saw it, we all saw it, so it's something the members are talking about, it's something the fans want, and it's something the board has gotta address."

NoPE accepts that exiting the gambling industry would be a big change for the club and needs to be carefully planned and executed. However, after years of empty talk from the club about looking at replacement lines of revenue, NoPE will watch with great interest to see whether the Club will finally walk the walk, and not talk the talk.

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About NoPE:

No Pokies At Essendon (NoPE) is a grassroots group of Essendon fans actively advocating for the Essendon Football Club to make a meaningful and public commitment to exit the poker machine business.

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