



# AUSTRALIAN HOTELS ASSOCIATION

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### ATM PROPOSAL SHORT-CUTS EVIDENCE

The hotel industry is questioning the evidence that has been put forward as justification for a bill that was introduced into Federal Parliament today to restrict automatic teller machines (ATMs) in gaming venues.

"Given the Rudd Government has taken the important step of commissioning a new Productivity Commission report into gambling, this bill is jumping the gun," AHA Chief Executive Officer Bill Healey said.

"The last Productivity Commission report, from which data was taken to justify the introduction of this bill, is now almost 10 years old.

"It should also be pointed out the recent NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal review of gambling found 'there is insufficient evidence to support a complete prohibition of electronic cash withdrawal facilities in gaming venues'.

"And the 2006 NSW Government Gaming Review concluded 'the 2006 study into the prevalence of problem gambling in the community indicated that the majority of users of ATMs in venues used them as a generally convenient way to access cash and for purposes unrelated to gambling in venues'.

"Add to this Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show that around 70% of income generated by hotels with gambling facilities is from food and beverage sales."

**For further information:**

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