



URGENT MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Clubs are not Pubs

Academics and The Age should get the facts right

Charles Livingston's report is fundamentally flawed by the academic's inability to get even the basics right. **Clubs are not Pubs.** Clubs are community assets that contribute hugely to the social, sporting and cultural life in Victoria. Clubs are not legally allowed to distribute surplus to any individual. Clubs are bound to apply 100% of all surpluses to the community purposes for which they are established.

Love 'em or hate 'em - the Collingwood Football Team is a massive contributor to the social fabric of Victoria. All the surpluses that Collingwood makes at the Club in Caroline Springs goes to ensuring that our icon game continues to be well funded. No-one is concerned about where the funds from Richmond Football Club's fund raising dinners are spent, because they are returned to the Club. So are the funds raised at the Wantirna Club.

In fact, Victorian clubs are the back-bone of our cultural and sporting activities from grass-roots to elite. If the local Retravisation store donated a coffee machine to the local bowls club it is a community benefit. If the local bowling club raises its own money to buy a coffee machine it is still a community benefit.

As it has been reported, Charles Livingston's research is simply a stunt. The report in The Age exposes a simple philosophical objection to gambling, and displays a failure of academic rigour by failing to examine any of the relevant details. It fails to distinguish between pubs and clubs, it is incorrect in its identification of the purpose of community benefits, and most surprisingly of all, Charles Livingston considers that employment outcomes are not a community benefit.

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Community clubs care.

ENDS

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