



## Did you know? – lotto and lotteries

### Lucky numbers

It is just as likely that the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 come up in a lotto draw as any other combination of 6 numbers.

### What are your chances?

The probability that you will win first division in lotto (based on a selection of 6 from 45 numbers) is one chance in 8,145,060.

### Probable loss of 40c in the dollar

Lotto games provide an average return to the player of only around 60%. That means you are likely to lose 40% of what you spend on lotto tickets (or 40c in every dollar you spend).

### Average spend on lotteries

The average amount spent by people on lottery products in NSW in 2001-02 was \$100.

### Lotto and lotteries less of a risk to problem gamblers

Lotto and lottery players generally buy their lottery tickets or choose their lotto numbers in a non-gambling environment such as a newsagent. Once the numbers are selected and the ticket purchased, there is a time delay until the game is played, with more time delays between further draws.

The structure of the game itself sets limits on the player so that lottery players are less likely to become problem gamblers than, for example, poker machine players.

### Lottery expenditure as percentage of gambling

Lottery products accounted for 7.6% of the total amount spent on gambling in NSW in 2001-02.

### NSW Lotteries – more than \$1 billion annual revenue

NSW Lotteries Corporation has annual revenue exceeding \$1 billion and 1600 statewide retail outlets.



### **Lotteries through history**

Lotteries are the oldest form of communal gambling, and date back to the Roman Empire in the 1<sup>st</sup> century.

Lotteries have been used by governments for centuries to raise revenue. Britain and other countries founded state lotteries during the 1500s.

### **Tasmanian lottery in 1896**

The Tasmanian government licensed George Adams' Tattersalls Sweepstakes in 1896, becoming the first Australian state to use lotteries for taxation.

### **Average expenditure on lottery products**

The average amount spent by people on lottery products in NSW in 2001-02 was about \$100.

### **Lotteries and NSW government revenue**

In NSW, lotteries have been established to fund specific causes, such as the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge (1932) and the Sydney Opera House (1957). Today, government duty on all lotteries is paid directly into Consolidated Revenue.

### **Lots of lottery players**

The elusive dream of winning the lottery has ensured that more people participate in lotteries than any other kind of gambling.