

Changes and continuities



	No culture has been found without some evidence of gambling, with the possible exception of the pre-European Indigenous Australian culture.	
1790s	Gambling was imported to Australia by the new settlers. The soldiers played card games such as cribbage and an early form of two-up called pitch and toss.	Early administrators tried to stamp out these games, but were unsuccessful. Types of gambling were influenced primarily by those from Britain, but with some Asian and European influences.
1800s	The first official horse race was held in 1810. By the mid 1800s betting on horse racing was a popular recreational activity with turf clubs established in many areas of Australia. The first Tattersall's lottery was conducted in 1881. The first Melbourne Cup was run in 1891.	Gambling was permitted at racing clubs. Gambling by the elite and army officers was tolerated. Racing became the most popular form of leisure activity for working class men. Asian gaming and public gaming such as two-up were regarded by many as immoral and were prohibited.
1910–1919	The Golden Casket Art Union began in Queensland in 1916. It was run by a charitable organisation, and raised money for soldiers returning from WW1, and for the Hospital for Sick Children in Brisbane.	A charitable organisation called, the Queensland Patriotic Committee was given permission by the Government to stage the Golden Casket Art Union to raise money for a fund for soldiers during WW1. The first prize was £5000 pounds. This was a lot of money at a time when the average weekly male wage was two to three pounds. The odds of winning were one in a million. Gamblers were willing to outlay the equivalent of half a day's pay to buy a ticket. From 1916–1919, £60 000 pounds had been raised.
1920–1929	The Queensland Government took control of the Golden Casket Art Union to raise revenue. During this decade, the number of draws went from twice a year to one every ten days. Poker machines were introduced into clubs and some hotels.	Within one year, the Golden Casket raised 2 million pounds in revenue for the Government. It provided 2% of government revenue during this decade. Poker machines were declared illegal by the Supreme Court in New South Wales. In clubs, there was some clouding of the issue because the profits from the machines went to the clubs, rather than to a machine owner. Some clubs continued to operate poker machines.
1930–1939	Minor gaming activities such as bingo, raffles and art unions became popular and legitimate. Early in this decade, poker machines appeared in hotels. They were then removed from hotels and clubs. By the end of the decade they began reappearing in some clubs, and began to generate substantial revenue.	Minor gaming is associated with providing funds for welfare and charitable organisations. They are seen as respectable activities.

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1940–1949	<p>This decade saw a thriving legal gambling industry.</p> <p>It also saw an increase in illegal gambling activity such as SP bookies and private gaming clubs.</p> <p>TABs (Totalisator Agency Boards) were established by the Government to counter the SP bookies.</p>	<p>The Government saw the illegal gambling as a growing concern for several reasons. It deprived them of revenue, but also caused problems with corruption.</p> <p>The introduction of the Government-run TABs brought more money for the development of the racing industry, and a renewed interest in racing from the public.</p>
1950–1959	<p>Gaming machines spread quickly throughout New South Wales. By 1959 there were about 1100 clubs and over 7000 poker machines in New South Wales.</p>	<p>In 1956, the New South Wales Government passed the <i>Gaming and Betting (Poker Machines) Act</i>, which gave the exclusive right to operate poker machines to registered clubs. The funds from the machines were to be used for community benefit. There was a rapid increase in the number of clubs, and club members.</p>
1960–1969	<p>The 1960s saw an increase in government ownership of TABs and lotteries, regulation of private bookmakers and gaming clubs.</p>	<p>The rationale for increased government ownership and regulation in this decade was the control of illegal gambling and the raising of funds, through gambling, for community services.</p>
1970–1979	<p>The popularity of the Golden Casket declined as other gambling opportunities increased. The first casinos in Australia were legalised in Tasmania and the Northern Territory.</p>	<p>This decade saw a series of economic recessions which, along with other economic factors, saw governments looking for ways of raising more revenue and bringing about economic growth.</p> <p>Factors contributing to the decline of the Golden Casket included a decrease in the chances of winning, a fall in the value of prize money due to inflation, profits were no longer seen as being beneficial to the community and other types of gambling were being introduced.</p>
1980–1989	<p>The Golden Casket Lottery Corporation introduced new products to try to stave off declining public interest.</p> <p>The second wave of casino legalisation saw casinos established in Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia.</p>	
1990–1999	<p>Golden Casket Lottery Corporation offers products such as Saturday Gold Lotto, Oz Lotto, Powerball, The Pools, Super 66, Jackpot Casket and Scratch-It.</p> <p>Legal casinos are introduced in New South Wales and Victoria.</p> <p>Gaming machines spread to all states in Australia, except Western Australia.</p> <p>Australia has approximately one twentieth of the world's gaming machines.</p> <p>Community concerns about the social harm caused by gaming are increasing.</p> <p>The federal and several state governments have held inquiries into the consequences of gambling.</p>	<p>During the 1990s, gambling has become big business. Both governments looking for revenue and private industry looking for a share of the market have led to a proliferation in gambling. Continuing technological developments have contributed to the modern form of gambling, with internet gambling, satellite telecasting, smart cards and the like.</p> <p>The Queensland Government still gains revenue from the Golden Casket Lottery Corporation. In 1996–97 for example, they received \$199 million.</p> <p>The chance of winning Gold Lotto is one in eight million.</p>