



Supplying Slot Machines to the Poor

Centre For Health Economics Seminar Series 2016

Presented by: Dr David Byrne
University of Melbourne
Date: Wednesday 11th May, 2016
Time: 12.00 noon to 1.00 pm
Venue: RB Scotton Room



Abstract:

As gambling becomes increasingly accessible both in the U.S. and world-wide, governments face an important policy question: how should they exploit the industry's growth to raise tax revenues while protecting individuals from the detrimental effects of gambling? Using data on slot machines from the largest per-capita gambling market in the world, Australia, we estimate a structural oligopoly model to:

- 1) quantify firms' incentives to make gambling accessible among socio-economically disadvantaged groups; and
- 2) evaluate the effect of government policy (gambling taxes, supply caps and venue smoking bans) on the distribution of slot machine supply, tax revenue and problem gambling prevalence.

Presenter:

David Byrne is an empirical researcher in industrial organization who uses structural econometrics and field experiments to study market power in various industries including cable television, gasoline, electricity, and healthcare. He received from Ph.D in economics from Queen's University in 2011. Since then he has been on faculty in the Department of Economics at The University of Melbourne where is currently a Senior Lecturer. He is also affiliated with the Centre for Market Design and Melbourne Energy Institute.

VISITORS ARE MOST WELCOME

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