

Media Release

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PRIVATE POKIES PALACE RAIDED

The State's consumer watchdog and gaming regulator has seized four illegal gaming machines from a private home in Adelaide's north.

Last week, officers from Consumer and Business Services (CBS), in association with SAPOL, raided a Walkley's Heights house, seizing four illegal poker machines - the biggest single seizure of this type in the state.

Commissioner for Consumer Affairs Dini Soulio said the operation was the result of information sharing between SAPOL and CBS.

"We received information that there was a 'pokies lounge' set up in a private house, with four fully functioning machines, which appeared to be professionally set up, complete with coin cups," Mr Soulio said.

"Under the *Gaming Machines Act* it is illegal to have possession of a gaming machine without being licensed to do so.

"The maximum penalty for such offences is a \$35,000 fine or two years imprisonment. "Since our private pokies crackdown began in June last year, 18 machines have been seized or surrendered from private homes around the state, often in family rooms and in 'man-caves'.

"However, our investigators have never come across an operation of this type in a private residence.

"During the raid, our officers executed a warrant and seized the four machines which will be destroyed.

"As the gaming regulator, CBS takes this matter seriously because having unlicensed machines in private homes could expose children to poker machines.

CBS's investigation is continuing, and is working with interstate and overseas authorities to identify any companies or individuals supplying gaming machines to people in South Australia.

"Anyone considering buying a gaming machine without the appropriate licence should be aware that significant penalties apply." Mr Soulio said.

