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[#13;](#)



Coroner blames pokies addiction for Katherine Natt's death (ABC News)

A young mother-of-two killed herself because she could not cope with her poker machine addiction, the South Australian Coroner has found.

Casino worker Katherine Natt, 24, took an overdose of paracetamol in 2006, fearing she may lose custody of her children because of her gambling addiction.

The coroner had been told the woman started work at the Adelaide Casino at 18 and struggled for four years with her poker machine addiction.

Her father had told the court he understood many employees worked at the casino because it prevented them from gambling there, but many, including his daughter, would still gamble at other venues after work.

Ms Natt accumulated a debt of more than \$100,000 and her family never knew.

Pokies addiction blamed for young mum's death - ABC Online

Written by Administrator
Sunday, 17 October 2010 19:25 -

Coroner Mark Johns said given the the Federal Government was considering measures to help deal with problem gamblers, his only recommendation was that his findings be forwarded on to Canberra.

Outside court, Ms Natt's mother Christine Matthews said she felt let down by the findings.

"I feel like everybody's just failed her," she said.

Senator Nick Xenophon appeared during the case for the dead woman's family and has long campaigned for tougher gambling laws.

He had also hoped for more from the coroner, including recommendations about the responsibility of gambling venues to their employees and patrons.

"The system has failed Katherine and it's failed Katherine's family," he said.

Senator Xenophon said he believed it was the first death directly linked to poker machines in South Australia.

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