

Overview of World Lotto Draws

And the Recent Rise and Risks of Messenger Services

Grenville Silvester, the owner of AusLottoGroup.com, receives daily questions from the public regarding Lotto. In the following article, Grenville provides a comparison of some of the world's biggest lotto draws (see Table 1) together with details of the recent rise and risks of Messenger Services¹.

Australian Lotto

The public love their governments giving them a chance to win a life changing amount of cash through Lotto. In Australia, Governments use the residual revenue to finance infrastructure and community projects and services. The official lotto outlets provide a service to the public which creates jobs and business certainty for those outlets.

Australian Lotto was started by George Adams in 1900 in Tasmania to assist the Government to develop the hydro power scheme. Because of its great success it soon spread to the other Australian States and Territories, where it went National in 1995. 86 years after the introduction of Lotto in Australia other countries saw its benefit and adopted the principle to provide their community members a life changing chance as well as providing needed government revenue.

Australian Lotto is the oldest Lotto with the best odds – ranging from 1:8 million for Monday, Wednesday & Saturday draws; 1:34 million for Tuesday; and 1:134 million for the Thursday Powerball. It has over 4,000 registered outlets as well as resident syndicator arrangements which purchase games from the official outlets. *(See Note 1 in Table 1).*

Given these odds, winning something in Lotto means that approximately 60% of winning games win the lowest Division prize which is typically between AU\$5 and AU\$15. *(See Note 2 in Table 1).*

The biggest jackpot to date in Australia has been AU\$110,000,000, and an average of 50,000,000 games are sold each week creating an average of 10 Division 1 winners every week. The State and Territory Governments and their licenced provider, TheLott, secure around \$20,000,000 revenue per week to maintain the draws and to finance infrastructure, community projects and services.

Australian Lotto Syndicates

Syndicator arrangements in Australia include the service offered by AusLottoGroup which is managed as 'not for profit' and offers its members the very best of odds that are available in the world's lotto draws. *(See <https://AusLottoGroup.com> and Note 3 in Table 1).*

AusLottoGroup members participate in Australian Lotto draws for less than AU\$5 per draw and have 40 times better chance of winning because of the Pick and Powerhit entries that the Australian Lotto founder, George Adams, introduced in 1900. All payments are secured monthly in arrears via a bank merchant facility and the website is promoted by the members.

¹ **AusLottoGroup is not a Messenger Service** nor associated in any way with a Messenger Service

Messenger Services

Messenger Services are attracted to Lotto because of the seemingly 'attractive lure of net **profit**' (instead of government **revenue**). Messenger Services offer the public the ability to participate in Lotto from around the world – except in Australia because of recent legal rulings. These services usually have someone (the 'messenger') in the country where the specific lotto is drawn. The messenger is an unknown individual who buys the games, hence the games are owned by that individual. Question: If a game wins \$300,000,000 – will the messenger stay put and pay up? The messenger service provides the purchaser a list of the numbers they are playing prior to the draw. (See Note 4 in Table 1).

The messenger is supposed to distribute any available winnings (after taxes and government charges) to the purchaser of the 'duplicate' winning ticket that the member purchased in advance out of their pre-paid account balance. Note 1: A duplicate ticket is not recognised by the official lotto provider. Note 2: Nearly all banks and card providers charge a fee on payments to entities that provide unlimited gambling withdrawals - so the Messenger Services usually provide for direct credit into an account, in advance of the draw, where game costs are debited.

In some instances, Messenger Services create an in-house insurance provider to cover first division wins – they do not purchase the actual games but instead directly compete with the official entity running the lotto while using the Governments official draw results.

Messenger Services typically charge between 230% - 300% above the official retail price of the tickets. E.g. A ticket that officially costs AU\$3.22 will cost the person, who is buying a ticket through a messenger service, a whopping AU\$9.00. That does not pass the pub test since there are no other tangible services that are provided.

The messenger service industry changes its name regularly and promotes and sells software and 'training' to start-up satellite Messenger Services so it becomes very difficult for Governments and their licensees to close them up because of the volume of start-ups. The majority of start-ups close after a short time because of government 'push back' and customer awareness.

Some Territories around the world are sucked in by licencing Messenger Services because of licencing revenue. State and national governments and their licenced outlets do not approve of territories giving the Messenger Services a sense of credibility in the eyes of the public.

As you can imagine, using a pre-paid account, no limit on betting and minimal to no government control, Messenger Services can be in direct conflict with country/religious beliefs, become a hotbed for money laundering, and, other undesirable profiteering practices which directly effects the official government draws.

These Messenger Services can deflect up to 10,000,000 games a week from official government draws because of the public not being informed. $10,000,000 \times AU\$6 = AU\$60,000,000$ per week profit – to whom?

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Table 1 | Comparison of world Lotto draws

GOVERNMENT LOTTO DRAWS	STARTED	Draws	States, Territories or Countries	AVERAGE ODDS 1 st Division	AVERAGE ODDS To Win something* ² (\$5 - \$15)
Australian* ¹	1900 – 1972 - 1995	M, Tu, W, Th, Sat	6 States 2 territories	1:40.8 million	1:943
Irish	1986	W, Sat	1	1: 11 million	1:662
USA Power	1992	W, Sat	45 states	1:292 million	1:26
UK	1994	W, Sat	2	1:45 million	1:1,300
USA Mega	1996	Tu, Fri	45 States	1:303 million	1:25
Italian Super	1997	Tu, Th, Sat	1	1:623 million	1:22
European Millions	2004	Tu, Fri	9 Countries	1:114 million	1:108
European Jackpot	2012	Sat	18 Countries	1:95 million	1:541
Professionally operating not for profit, under a members only model, Australian Government acceptable syndicate arrangement, using the unique Australian Pick and Powerhit entries.					
Australian* ³ AusLottoGroup	2011	Australian draws only. M, Tu, W, Th, Sat	All countries (online) members only	1:1.6 million	M,W,Sa 1:50 Tu. 1:274 Th. 1:20
International 'Messenger Services' that use Government draws for profit.					
Messenger* ⁴ Services	2015	Tu, W, Th, Fri, Sat	Not Australia Restricted in UK and USA	1:212 million	1:383