



**Hon. George Souris M.P**  
Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing  
Minister for the Arts

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Thursday 7 July, 2011

### **RECORD FUNDING FOR GAMBLING COUNSELLING SERVICES**

Frontline problem gambling counselling and support services will receive a record \$10.2 million this financial year, Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing, George Souris, announced today.

“This year’s allocations represent a 4% increase in annual funding to help services meet rising operating and staff costs”.

Mr Souris said the funding has been allocated to 46 counselling and support services operating at more than 200 locations across the State.

He said the NSW Government’s Responsible Gambling Fund (RGF) is continuing to ensure high quality assistance is available where and when it is needed.

“While the overwhelming majority of people enjoy a casual flutter without any impact on their lives, some struggle to keep their gambling under control,” Mr Souris said.

“The latest research shows that 0.4 per cent of the adult population in NSW are problem gamblers, with a further 1.2 per cent at moderate risk. Impacts include financial and legal problems, family breakdown, anxiety and depression.

“That is why we fund a range of **Gambling Help** services to provide free, confidential and effective counselling across the State.

“These services are at the frontline providing high quality counselling to problem gamblers and their families often in difficult circumstances.

“This funding will ensure they continue to have the support they need to provide this important service.

“In addition to mainstream face-to-face counselling, we also provide specialist support services for problem gamblers in the ethnic communities.

“The RGF also funds a Statewide Multicultural Problem Gambling Service which provides counselling and education programs in a range of languages.

“We also fund organisations to provide training and legal advice to counsellors working at all NSW Government-funded problem gambling services across the State. Free legal assistance is also available to problem gamblers and their families.

“I encourage anybody experiencing gambling problems to make the first step to recovery and seek help at one of these services.

“We know that counselling makes a real difference to people’s lives. A recent survey revealed that 93% of clients felt better able to manage their gambling three months after receiving help.

“In addition to this funding, the RGF has also allocated more than \$780,000 to the 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week **Gambling Helpline (1800 858 858)** in 2011-12.

“We are also providing \$218,000 this financial year towards the national **Gambling Help Online** service which provides live online and email counselling 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week.”

The funds are generated by a special tax on Star City Casino, over and above gaming taxation.

For free, confidential help 24 hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week phone **1800 858 858** or visit [www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au).

### Coastal Sydney

COUNSELLING SERVICE	LOCATION	2010-11	2011-12
Hopstreet Urban Compassion	East Sydney	\$176,008	\$182,564
Wesley Mission Legal Service (Statewide)	Sydney	\$229,388	\$237,933
Centre for Community Welfare Training (Statewide)	Strawberry Hills	\$393,761	\$408,429
Wesley Mission – Sydney	Sydney	\$408,675	\$423,898
Mission Australia – Sydney	Campsie, Sydney	\$263,796	\$273,622
Sydney Women's Counselling Centre	Campsie	\$111,564	\$115,720
University of Sydney	Darlington	\$447,306	\$463,968
St Vincent's Hospital	Darlinghurst	\$430,102	\$446,123
Greek Welfare Centre	Newtown	\$97,490	\$101,122
Co As It	Leichhardt	\$84,499	\$87,647
Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury	Gordon	\$36,690	\$38,057
Hornsby Drug, Alcohol and Gambling Service	Hornsby	\$311,882	\$323,500
Wesley Mission – St George/Sutherland	Sutherland, Hurstville	\$167,071	\$173,294

### South West Sydney

South Western Sydney Local Health Network	Liverpool, Bankstown	\$304,756	\$316,108
University of Sydney	Camden, Campbelltown	\$283,938	\$294,515
Mission Australia South West Sydney	Campbelltown	\$164,052	\$170,163
Arab Council Australia	Bankstown	\$184,649	\$191,527
Vietnamese Community in Australia	Cabramatta	\$137,737	\$142,868
Lifeline	Fairfield	\$60,078*	\$87,717

\*New service which operated for eight months of 2010-11

### Western Sydney

CatholicCare Social Services	Blacktown	\$89,173	\$92,495
Lifeline Western Sydney	Parramatta	\$196,556	\$203,878
St. Vincent de Paul Society NSW	Baulkham Hills	\$144,843	\$150,238
Western Sydney Local Health Network	Mt Druitt	\$187,789	\$194,784
Multicultural Problem Gambling Service (Statewide)	North Parramatta	\$553,219	\$573,826
University of Sydney	Lidcombe, Parramatta	\$279,400	\$289,808

Auburn Asian Welfare Centre	Lidcombe	\$276,085	\$286,369
Wesley Mission – Penrith	Kingswood	\$246,530	\$255,713

### Central Coast

Peninsula Community Centre	Woy Woy	\$172,614	\$179,044
UnitingCare Unifam Gosford	Gosford	\$97,757	\$101,398
Wesley Mission – Central Coast	Wyong	\$130,202	\$135,052

### Hunter

Cessnock Family Support Inc.	Cessnock	\$69,850	\$72,452
Mission Australia – Hunter	Newcastle West	\$298,839	\$309,971
Wesley Mission Newcastle	Hamilton	\$166,664	\$172,872
Woodrising Neighbourhood Centre	Woodrising (Lake Macquarie)	\$65,721	\$68,169

### Illawarra

Mission Australia – Illawarra	Wollongong, Nowra, Dapto	\$528,862	\$548,562
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### New England/North West

Anglicare Northern Inland	Tamworth	\$100,668	\$104,418
Centacare New England North West	West Tamworth	\$85,433	\$88,615

### North Coast

Lifeline North Coast	Coffs Harbour	\$160,839	\$166,830
Mission Australia – North Coast	Port Macquarie, Taree	\$128,064	\$132,834
Northern Rivers Gambling Service (The Buttery)	Bangalow	\$242,329	\$251,356

### Riverina/Murray

Mission Australia Riverina	Wagga, Griffith	\$230,042	\$238,611
St David's UnitingCare	Albury	\$204,630	\$212,252
Wagga Wagga Family Support Service	Wagga	\$153,555	\$159,275

### South East

Anglicare Canberra and Goulburn	Goulburn	\$195,900	\$203,197
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### Western NSW

Lifeline Broken Hill	Broken Hill	\$102,747	\$106,574
Lifeline Central West	Bathurst, Dubbo	\$361,401	\$374,863