



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

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 22 June, 2012

FUNDING BOOST FOR NSW GAMBLING COUNSELLING SERVICES

Minister for Hospitality and Racing, George Souris, today welcomed funding increases for each of the State's 46 problem gambling counselling and support services.

Mr Souris said the Gambling Help services operate at more than 200 locations across the State providing free, confidential and effective counselling and support to problem gamblers and their families.

"These services offer high quality face-to-face services ranging from gambling counselling, financial counselling, and support for specific groups such as culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, youth and women," Mr Souris said.

"As announced in the recent State Budget, the NSW Government is providing a record \$10.6 million in funding in 2012/13 for our network of problem gambling counselling and support services.

"These counselling services operate on the frontline in often difficult circumstances and this extra funding will help ensure that they continue to receive the support they need to provide a very important community service.

"These welcome increases in funding will help these services meet rising operational costs and can continue providing invaluable support to communities across metropolitan, regional and rural NSW."

Mr Souris said NSW's problem gambling counselling services provided a total of 19,819 counselling sessions to 4,237 clients in 2010/11.

"These services included a state wide Multicultural Problem Gambling Service plus five culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)-specific counselling services for the Chinese, Arabic, Vietnamese, Greek and Italian speaking communities which provided a total of 2,511 counselling sessions to 543 clients," Mr Souris said.

"As well as counselling services there is a state wide training service, provided by the Centre for the Community Welfare Training, which provides a range of problem gambling counselling related training courses to Gambling Help counsellors across NSW, provides financial assistance to enable regional and rural counsellors to attend relevant training courses if they are not available in their area and conducts the annual NSW Problem Gambling Counsellors' Conference.

"There is also a state wide legal service, provided by Wesley Community Legal Service, which provides free legal advice and representation to problem gamblers and their families across NSW, and free legal advice and training to Responsible Gambling Fund-supported counselling services."

Mr Souris said as well as face-to-face counselling services, the Government's Responsible Gambling Fund also supports the 24-hour Gambling Help (1800 858 858) line which assisted 6,700 callers in 2010/11 including problem gamblers or family members.

Further assistance was also offered through the national Gambling Help Online service which provided 1,491 live online counselling sessions in 2010/11, including 586 in NSW, as well as further information support via email interactions.

For further information on problem gambling support services visit www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au or phone 1800 858 858.

Counselling Service	Location	2011/12	2012/13
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Coastal Sydney

Centre for Community Welfare Training (Statewide)	Sydney	\$408,429	\$420,784
Co.As.It. Italian Association of Assistance	Leichhardt	\$87,647	\$90,298
Greek Welfare Centre	Newtown	\$101,122	\$104,181
Hopestreet Urban Compassion	East Sydney	\$182,564	\$188,087
Hornsby Drug, Alcohol and Gambling Service	Hornsby	\$323,500	\$333,286
Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury	Gordon	\$38,057	\$61,958
Mission Australia – Sydney	Sydney	\$273,622	\$281,899
St Vincent's Hospital	Darlinghurst	\$446,123	\$508,430
Sydney Women's Counselling Centre	Campsie	\$115,720	\$119,221
University of Sydney – Darlington	Darlington	\$463,968	\$478,003
Wesley Mission – Legal Service (Statewide)	Sydney	\$237,933	\$245,130
Wesley Mission - St George/Sutherland	Sutherland	\$173,294	\$178,536
Wesley Mission - Sydney	Sydney	\$423,898	\$436,721

South West Sydney

Arab Council Australia	Bankstown	\$191,527	\$197,321
Lifeline Western Sydney (Fairfield)	Fairfield	\$87,717	\$90,370
Mission Australia - South West Sydney	Campbelltown	\$170,163	\$175,310
South Western Sydney Local Health District	Liverpool	\$316,108	\$325,670
University of Sydney – South West Sydney	Campbelltown	\$294,515	\$303,424
Vietnamese Community in Australia	Cabramatta	\$142,868	\$147,190

Western Sydney

Auburn Asian Welfare Centre	Auburn	\$286,369	\$295,032
CatholicCare Social Services	Blacktown	\$92,495	\$95,293
Lifeline Western Sydney	Parramatta	\$203,878	\$210,045
St Vincent de Paul Society NSW	Baulkham Hills	\$150,238	\$154,783
University of Sydney – Lidcombe	Lidcombe	\$289,808	\$298,575
Wesley Mission – Penrith	Penrith	\$255,713	\$263,448
Western Sydney Local Health Network – Mt Druitt	Mt Druitt	\$194,784	\$200,676
Western Sydney Local Health Network – MPGS (Statewide)	North Parramatta	\$573,826	\$591,184

Central Coast

Peninsula Community Centre	Woy Woy	\$179,044	\$184,460
UnitingCare Unifam Gosford	Gosford	\$101,398	\$104,465

Wesley Mission - Central Coast	Wyong	\$135,052	\$139,137
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Hunter

Mission Australia – Hunter	Newcastle West	\$309,971	\$319,348
Samaritans Foundation	Cessnock	\$36,226*	\$73,187
Wesley Mission – Newcastle	Hamilton	\$172,872	\$178,101
Woodrising Neighbourhood Centre	Lake Macquarie	\$68,169	\$70,231

*Funding was for six months.

Illawarra

Mission Australia – Illawarra	Wollongong	\$548,562	\$565,156
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New England/North West

Anglicare Northern Inland	Tamworth	\$104,418	\$107,577
Centacare New England North West	West Tamworth	\$88,615	\$91,296

North Coast

Lifeline North Coast	Coffs Harbour	\$166,830	\$171,877
Mission Australia - North Coast	Port Macquarie	\$132,834	\$136,852
Northern Rivers Gambling Service (The Buttery)	Bangalow	\$251,356	\$258,960

Riverina/Murray

Mission Australia – Riverina	Wagga Wagga	\$238,611	\$245,829
St David's Uniting Care	Albury	\$212,252	\$218,673
Wagga Wagga Family Support Service	Wagga Wagga	\$159,275	\$164,093

South East NSW

Anglicare Canberra and Goulburn	Goulburn	\$203,197	\$209,344
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Western NSW

Lifeline Broken Hill	Broken Hill	\$106,574	\$109,798
Lifeline Central West	Bathurst	\$374,863	\$386,203

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