

## **New online tool to help Vietnamese problem gamblers win back their lives**

A new tool developed by the NSW Government is now available online to help Vietnamese problem gamblers win back their lives. The Gambling Help Calculator aims to give gamblers a snapshot of where things really stand for them financially by working how much they will lose on average over a year if they keep gambling at their usual rate.

The new resource has been released in time for Responsible Gambling Awareness Week 2013 (20-26 May)

Research shows that gamblers tend to remember their wins more than their losses. But the reality is that nearly everyone will lose money over a long period of time.

Vietnamese Community in Australia NSW Chapter Counsellor Dinh Trong Dang welcomes this new tool available to the Vietnamese community.

“Some gamblers do not realise how serious their gambling problem is until they lose their life savings, home and family. Finally there is now a tool designed to help problem gamblers estimate the amount of money they have been spending on gambling and this will make them aware of the consequences before it becomes too late.”

“There is always a stigma associated with seeing a counsellor in the Vietnamese culture. The Gambling Help Calculator is available online and is in their native language. This means a person can simply go to the website and check out the information in private anywhere anytime.”

A recent study conducted in 2012 by the Multicultural Health Communication Service (MHCS) and funded by the Responsible Gambling Fund (RGF) shows that more than 90% of the members of the Vietnamese community in NSW believe and acknowledge that gambling is a problem in their communities. This feedback was received from close to 1000 participants across five communities - Arabic, Chinese, Greek, Italian and Vietnamese. To view survey results visit: <http://bit.ly/10oIYOo>

Half of the survey participants expressed in the interviews that the most commonly identified method of recognising a friend's gambling problem was if the friend had to borrow or sell to get money to gamble. They also mentioned that they are able to identify if a friend or family member has a gambling issue when they experience financial problems, spend more than they can afford or have relationship issues.

“The Vietnamese community understands that gambling is a problem. They see their friends and families affected to the extent of losing everything they own and the people they love. The Gambling Help Calculator in Vietnamese will help get problem gamblers back on track to recover their lives back again” said Dinh Trong Dang.

The Gambling Help Calculator is also available in Arabic, Chinese, Greek and Italian. For more information, visit: <http://bit.ly/YfxVoq>

If you or someone you know show signs of problem gambling, free help is available by contacting The Vietnamese Community in Australia - NSW Chapter Inc on (02) 9727 5599 or (02) 97903934 to make an appointment. Vietnamese Community in Australia has two offices located at 4/50 Park Road, Cabramatta, and 23 Greenwood Avenue, Bankstown.

Vietnamese Community in Australia - NSW Chapter Inc has professional counsellors that speak Vietnamese and English and have experience in problem gambling counselling. They operate under a strict code of confidentiality and work with family and friends affected by problem gambling.

**For free confidential help 24 hours a day visit [www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au) or call 1800 858 858.**

You can also visit Multicultural Problem Gambling Service 1800 856 800 Address: Building 55a, Cumberland Hospital, 5 Fleet St, Parramatta, NSW 2150 <http://www.dhi.health.nsw.gov.au/mpgs>