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## MEDIA RELEASE

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Friday, 6 September 2013

### NEW PROBLEM GAMBLING RESOURCES TO HELP ARABIC SPEAKERS

Member for East Hills, Glenn Brookes, today helped launch two new multicultural resources on behalf of the NSW Government as part of Multicultural Health Week to target problem gambling in Arabic-speaking communities in NSW.

Mr Brookes said a 2012 survey of 1,000 people in the Arabic-speaking community, conducted by the Multicultural Health Communication Service (MHCS) and funded by the Government's Responsible Gambling Fund, found 75% believe gambling is a problem in their communities.

"The NSW Government committed \$15 million in the June Budget to its Responsible Gambling Fund to help address problem gambling through high quality counselling services and research, education and awareness activities across the State, including in multicultural communities," Mr Brookes said.

"The launch today of a *Problem Gambling Help for Family and Friends* booklet in Arabic developed through the Responsible Gambling Fund aims to raise awareness about problem gambling in Arabic-speaking communities.

"The booklet explains the warning signs to identify problem gambling, its effects on families and children, and provides advice on how to get assistance for an affected family member or friend including counselling, legal advice, and gambling self exclusion schemes.

"This booklet will be freely available through community outlets including the Arabic Council of Australia and can also be downloaded from the Gambling help website at [www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au)."

Mr Brookes said also launched today was a powerful video story in Arabic telling the true story of Omar, an Arabic-speaking problem gambler who battles to defeat his addiction.

"The video aims to overcome the secrecy and shame often associated with speaking about gambling problems, show the impact problem gambling has on an individual, and illustrate the work of Responsible Gambling Fund supported counsellors at The Arab Council Australia who assist many people like Omar. The video is available at [www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au) and the Gambling Hangover You Tube Channel," Mr Brookes said.

"These culturally-relevant resources will assist people from the Arabic-speaking community to identify if someone they care about has a gambling problem and provide them with tools and resources to deal with the situation including free, confidential counselling in their language."

Arab Council Australia counsellor Randa Moussa welcomed the new resources.

"There is always a stigma associated with seeing a counsellor in Arabic cultures yet, for every individual who has a gambling problem, there are on average 10 family members who are also affected," Ms Moussa said.

“Some gamblers don’t realise how serious their gambling problem is until they lose everything. The booklet and video can assist families and friends and give them the right information and tools they need to tackle a gambling problem before it reaches this point.

“If you or someone you know shows signs of problem gambling, free help is available by contacting Arab Council Australia on (02) 9709 4333 to make an appointment.

“The council is located on level 1/194 Stacey Street, Bankstown. The Arab Council Australia has professional and experienced counsellors who speak Arabic and English and operate under a strict code of confidentiality. They also work with family and friends affected by problem gambling.”

Problem gamblers and their families can also access help by phoning 1800 858 858 or visiting [www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au)

**Multicultural problem gambling counselling services:**

Arab Council Australia: 9709 4333

Co.As.It (Italian): 9564 0744

Auburn Asian Welfare Centre: 9646 3695

Vietnamese Community in Australia NSW Chapter Inc: 9727 5599

Multicultural Problem Gambling Service: 9840 3767 or 1800 856 800

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