



**Trade & Investment**  
Office of Liquor, Gaming & Racing

  
multicultural health  
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ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΥΣΤΡΑΛΙΑΣ  
Ελληνικό Κέντρο Προνοίας  
Υπηρεσία για Προβλήματα Τζόγου  
Τηλ: (02) 9516 2188

  
**Βοήθεια Τζόγου**  
Δωρεάν • Επαγγελματική • Εχεμύθεια  
Ελληνικό Κέντρο Προνοίας στο  
**02 9516 2188**

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

A new tool developed by the NSW Government is now available online to help Greek problem gamblers understand the true impact of gambling on 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.

Sometimes it can be difficult to step back and look at the 'big picture' of how gambling is affecting a person's life - especially if the people around them gamble often as well. It is easy to lose sight of what gambling is costing financially, emotionally and in relationships.

Greek Welfare Centre Counsellor Maria Petrohilos welcomes this new tool available to the Greek community.

“Some gamblers do not realise how serious their gambling problem is until they lose their life savings, home and family. It is very exciting that 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.”

“As we know there exists stigma associated with seeing a counsellor in the Greek culture. The Gambling Help Calculator is available online in Greek. This means that the individual with the gambling problem can simply go to the website and check out the information in private anywhere anytime.”

A recent study conducted in early 2012 by the Multicultural Health Communication Service (MHCS) and funded by the Responsible Gambling Fund (RGF) shows that more than 80% of the members of the Greek 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/10oIYOp>

Half of the survey participants expressed in 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 responded 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 Greek 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 Greek will help get problem gamblers back on track to recover their lives back again” said Counsellor Maria Petrohilos.

The Gambling Help Calculator is also available in Arabic, Chinese, Italian and Vietnamese. 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 Greek Welfare Centre on (02) 9516 2188 to make an appointment. The Centre is located at 378A King Street, Newtown, NSW.

Greek Welfare Centre has professional counsellors that speak Greek and English and have experience in dealing with problem gambling. 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>