

Hon Zoe Bettison MP

Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion

Monday, 22 May 2017

Impact on loved-ones the focus of this year's Responsible Gambling Week

Responsible Gambling Awareness Week (22-28 May) kicks off today with this year's theme 'family and friends of people impacted by gambling'

Communities and Social Inclusion Minister Zoe Bettison said people with a gambling problem are not the only ones who suffer with families and friends also affected.

It is estimated between five and 10 people are impacted by the problem gambling of one individual. Almost one in five people accessing gambling support services are family members of people with a gambling problem.

To raise awareness of services to help people affected by problem gambling, and their friends and families, the State Government has funded a number of community events during Responsible Gambling Awareness Week.

Events range from sporting activities, information days, seminars and events for multicultural and refugee communities.

Visit www.problemgambling.sa.gov.au for a list of community events.

If you or someone you know needs help with problem gambling, call the Gambling Helpline on 1800 858 858 for a free, confidential chat, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Background

The theme for Responsible Gambling Awareness week this year recognises the importance of family and friends of people impacted by problem gambling. They support people close to them and often suffer themselves.

It is important that people close to those with a gambling problem protect their own emotional, social and financial wellbeing.

Information and resources, for people with a gambling problem and their family and friends, are available via www.problemgambling.sa.gov.au.

On the website you can find information such as how to recognise the signs of gambling problem, gambling myths and facts and where to find help and support near you.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion, Zoe Bettison

I hope Responsible Gambling Awareness Week will be a catalyst for family and friends to seek support for themselves and to help their loved one to get the support they need.

Family and friends play an important part in supporting people to seek help to address their gambling problem. The State Government provides a range of free gambling help services and supports.

I encourage people to attend a community event near them, or visit www.problemgambling.sa.gov.au, to find out more about available free services and support.

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