Hi Pat, are we still on for the movies tonight?

Maybe, dad's in the kitchen on his own, and he's stressed out!

Hurry up, son, much work to do!

Patrick's dad never gives him a break.

Sam does seem a bit edgy lately.

Hey, there's Sam now, playing the pokies.

Yeah, he's always on that machine.

Later

So the movies are off?

Yeah, I have to work again.
Later, at home.

Where's my dinner?

Coming...

This food is terrible - make some more!

Don't speak to mum like that - just because you've lost on the pokies.

I work hard, I need some recreation.

No one else gets a break, we all work hard.

SHOVE!

What am I doing?

I'm sorry, it won't happen again.
Next day ... back at the restaurant

What's wrong son? How can I succeed at school, I didn't get my study done last night, I have to work again now, it's too much!

If dad doesn't give me a break - I'm leaving.
You must respect your father.
Quick, take these orders, we have new customers.

Why bother, you'll just spend it on the pokies anyway.
Speak to me like that again and you can leave my restaurant!
Fine, you can do the work yourself.

Later that night

I feel so helpless, what can I do?
You could ring Gambling Help Line*. It's a confidential phone service.

You need to get on top of this, stay here as long as you need.
I suppose, I do need someone to talk to.

*Gambling Helpline is a free helpline for people affected by gambling problems 1800 858 858
A few days later

What's been happening?

My dad's gambling is out of control & everyone's stressed out.

You need to make decisions that work for you, but your parents need to make their own decisions.

Something's gotta change soon, he's spending all our money.

OK, I'll try and get them to call.

I can refer you to a counsellor who can help you and your family. We're here for your mum and dad too.

Later

Sam, not the money again, how can I pay the rent?

I'll show them all, when I win, they'll shut up then.

That night

Where's the money, we must pay the rent.

But, I need it now!

I'll get it soon.

You'll have to wait, I'm going out.
Later, back at the club

Can I have some change please.

what's he doing?

Later

Sam's still gambling, something's gotta be done.

The restaurant's closed, Patrick's left home - what more does it take.

I'll try and talk to him.

Good luck.

Meanwhile

I must win the money back
The next day back at the restaurant

Sam let me in,
It's Les.

What do you want?

I just came to tell you that Patrick is OK, he's at my place. He's really worried about you.

Sorry if I've been rude,
Les, but things are a bit rough at present.

Look, I don't want to be pushy, I'm just worried about you.

There's no shame in getting help. My brother lost everything at the TAB, he goes to a group now and seems to be doing OK.

Thanks, you are a good friend.

A few days later

I need some help.

I've been gambling too much and losing my temper.

Tell me what's been happening?

You could go and see a counsellor, that would be a good start.

Yes, I suppose you are right.
A week later Sam visits a gambling counsellor

Can you help me to stop gambling?

I can help you but, you have to make the decisions about your gambling.

I kept thinking I'd win the money back, my luck would change.

The odds are stacked against gamblers, the more you gamble the more likely you will lose.

It's very hard...

I know, but if you keep gambling like this you could lose everything.

What about the business?

We have a financial counsellor here, she can help you and your family manage the money.

Sam, you've made the first step, but gambling problems don't go away overnight. Let's talk about how you've been going next week.
At a Gambling Help Service, you can talk to trained experienced people who understand how easily the warning signs can escalate into a gambling problem. They will help you identify the potential for a problem, and establish an approach to prevent your gambling behaviour affecting you and your family.

Many people have resolved their gambling problems with a Gambling Help Service. The hardest part is taking the first step. The rest is easier than you might think.

www.problemgambling.sa.gov.au

Your next step is easier than you think

Gambling Helpline: 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week
1800 858 858
The Gambling Helpline can organise an interpreter for you.