



**Paul Toole**  
Minister for Lands and Forestry  
Minister for Racing

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **NEW STUDY TO MEASURE EXTENT OF PROBLEM GAMBLING**

The NSW Government will conduct a major new study into the prevalence of problem gambling as well as harms caused by excessive gambling, Minister for Racing Paul Toole said today.

The Government has also released research by the University of Sydney examining the risks of various types of gambling.

“Both these studies will help us better understand gambling-related problems and ensure we have the most effective measures to address them,” Mr Toole said.

“It’s important our work is guided by high-quality research so policies are based on the best available evidence.”

Mr Toole said the new gambling prevalence study, to begin in early 2018, follows studies in 2006 and 2011 that found the rate of problem gambling in NSW was stable at 0.8 per cent of the community.

“The study will provide an up-to-date understanding of gambling participation and behaviour including the type and level of gambling harm occurring in different areas of the community,” Mr Toole said.

“The University of Sydney study has provided valuable insights into gambling-related harm and how it is experienced in the community.”

In 2017/18, the NSW Responsible Gambling Fund will allocate more than \$18 million towards research, community awareness campaigns and support, such as counselling for people affected by problem gambling.

Recruitment of a new chair and trustees for the Responsible Gambling Fund is currently underway.

The University of Sydney study and the Government response can be found here: <http://www.liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au/Pages/gaming/problems-with-gambling/responsible-gambling-fund/gambling-research.aspx>

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