



Troy Grant
Minister for Justice and Police

MEDIA RELEASE

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FAMILY AND FRIENDS THE FOCUS OF RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING AWARENESS WEEK 2016

Responsible Gambling Awareness Week 2016 is on this week with a theme focused on taking the stigma out of problem gambling for those who seek help from friends and family.

Deputy Premier Troy Grant said Responsible Gambling Awareness Week shines the spotlight on problem gambling and raises awareness about the free support available to help people who are experiencing gambling problems.

“There are 54 Gambling Help counselling services across NSW to help turn around the lives of people with gambling problems - to bring relief to their families and loved ones,” Mr Grant said.

“Around the clock, 24-hour telephone and internet counselling is also available to ensure problem gamblers can get help when and where they need it.

“The Government’s Responsible Gambling Fund has committed over \$19 million in 2015/16 for counselling services including a brand-new \$2.4m You’re Stronger Than You Think advertising campaign.”

During this year’s Responsible Gambling Awareness Week, the Responsible Gambling Fund and Gambling Help network will promote a Family and Friends theme for two very important reasons.

Family and friends are often personally impacted by a loved one’s gambling problem but can also play a big role in helping them gather the strength to take that important first step towards tackling their addiction.

An animated ecard campaign called Talkward has been developed allowing problem gamblers and family and friends to send free personalised e-cards to break the ice on conversations about problem gambling and encourage dialogue.

A new booklet has also been published with practical advice for family and friends to manage themselves while helping loved ones.

Free and confidential counselling, including legal assistance and financial counselling, can be accessed on 1800 858 858 or www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au.

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