

# Advice for parents and carers

## Signs of problem gambling

### Some signs that your son or daughter may have a gambling problem include:

- Spends lots of time gambling and thinking about gambling.
- Misses school or grades start to worsen because of time spent gambling.
- Starts to place larger and more frequent bets to maintain interest and excitement produced by gambling.
- Experiences mood swings and feels stressed when not gambling regularly or trying to reduce or stop gambling.
- Promises to stop or reduce their gambling but has trouble following through with plan.
- Lies or is secretive about gambling activities.
- Missing personal belongings or cannot cover regular expenses as he/she has used these to finance gambling activities.
- Borrows or takes money from family members or friends to gamble.
- Keeps on gambling because they believe that they can win back their money and stop.
- Gambles as a means of escape or to forget their problems.
- Family members or friends are concerned that your son/daughter's gambling will become serious.
- An individual at risk will not necessarily exhibit all these behaviours.

### If you think your child is gambling or gambling too much you have options including seeking professional help. Here are some general steps to follow:

- Get informed about gambling and its risks.
- Be aware of your own gambling behaviour and beliefs.
- Encourage discussion and questions about gambling.
- Listen to what your child has to say.
- Set limits of time, money and frequency of gambling if problems are not severe.

#### WHERE TO GET HELP



Communities NSW



**Multicultural Problem Gambling Service for NSW Tollfree 1800 856 800**  
**Gambling Help Line 1800 858 858 ( 24 hours / 7 days a week).**