

MEDIA RELEASE

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The odds are high that gambling is affecting someone you know

With over 1.8 million Australians gambling online now and spending on sports betting tripling in the last five years, the odds are high that someone you know may have developed a gambling problem or will develop one.

A new report into interactive gambling suggests that online gamblers could be at greater risk because of 24/7 availability, convenience, privacy, the use of credit over cash, and increased possibility of hiding betting from family and friends.

“We are genuinely concerned that the increased accessibility combined with the stigma of problem gambling will result in a dramatic rise in the number of people hiding gambling problems.” Rosemary Hambleton, Practice Manager of Gambling Help Services at Relationships Australia South Australia said.

This is why the community engagement events that are part of the Responsible Gambling Awareness Week, 26-31 May, are so important in breaking down stigma and making people more aware about the dangers of gambling.

“Our service wants to help people to stay in control and maintain a balance between gambling and other enjoyable activities. This is what gambling safely is all about,” said Ms Hambleton.

Relationships Australia South Australia’s Gambling Help Service will be at local football games, netball games, shopping centres and community events during Responsible Gambling Awareness Week.

The Gambling Help team will be promoting resources that will help people to ‘stay on track!’ This includes the ‘Stay on Track’ app which can be easily downloaded onto mobile phones. The app allows the user to set a budget for the gambling and keep track of their wins and losses.

“Our team is highly experienced and helps hundreds of people every year to overcome gambling problems or keep safe from developing gambling problems. They have lots of good information and tips for the community about what to look out for if you think someone has developed a problem and what you can do to help them,” said Ms Hambleton.

The Gambling Help team will be setting up information stalls with lots of giveaways and welcomes everyone to come along to find out more.

For more details about events during Responsible Gambling Awareness Week, visit www.rasa.org.au

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