

## **Gambling and CALD communities**

### **Did you know?**

- Gambling prevalence in culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities is typically the same as in the broader community; however people in CALD communities who gamble tend to have higher gambling losses<sup>1</sup>
- A number of factors contribute to problem gambling in CALD communities
- There are a number of barriers to seeking help for gambling problems for people in CALD communities.

### **How common is gambling in amongst people from CALD communities?**

- Rates of participation in gambling varies across individual CALD communities and across types of gambling, however there are similar rates of gambling participation when comparing all CALD communities to the broader community.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2009, 73% of all Victorians had participated in some form of gambling in the previous 12 months.<sup>3</sup>

### **What are the risk factors for problem gambling in CALD communities?**

People from CALD communities experience a range of factors that increase their risk of engaging in gambling and developing problems with gambling. These include:

- settlement issues including changing of traditional status, lower socio-economic status and unemployment
- limited English language skills undermining responsible gambling messages
- marginalisation, social isolation and exclusion from wider community
- few culturally appropriate and accessible alternative activities
- changing values and growing acceptance of gambling as an 'Australian' activity.<sup>4</sup>

### **Does culture have an impact on gambling in CALD communities?**

Cultural conceptions of fate, luck and chance can influence a person's decision to gamble. This is notable in Chinese and Vietnamese communities.<sup>5</sup>

### **Are people from refugee backgrounds at greater risk of problem gambling?**

- People from refugee backgrounds often experience traumatic events in their home country, which can create a vulnerability to developing problems with gambling.<sup>6</sup>
- Gambling can be used by some to manage mental health issues caused by traumatic events.
- Social isolation, lack of financial literacy and lack of understanding of the risks associated with gambling are also key issues for refugee communities.<sup>7</sup>

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### What barriers to seeking help for problem gambling do CALD communities experience?

- Shame and stigma
- Limited English language proficiency
- Lack of awareness of services
- Lack of trust of government services
- Lack of understanding of the concept of counseling
- Dealing with problems within the family
- Concerns around confidentiality.<sup>8</sup>

### What are some health promotion actions that target CALD communities and gambling?

- Encourage use of venues other than those with pokie machines for group outings
- Undertake community information program to empower communities to make informed decisions about whether to gamble or not
- Organise financial literacy courses incorporating problem gambling information for newly arrived communities
- Address settlement needs including access to employment and training opportunities.

### Want to know more?

Contact James Dunne, Project Officer Problem Gambling Prevention, HealthWest Partnership on 9313 5080 or at [james.healthwest@isispc.com.au](mailto:james.healthwest@isispc.com.au) or visit [www.problemgambling.vic.gov.au](http://www.problemgambling.vic.gov.au).

The Multicultural Gambler's Help Program at the Centre for Culture, Ethnicity and Health has a range of resources in community languages that help support problem gambling health promotion projects in CALD communities. For more details visit [www.ceh.org.au/mghp.aspx](http://www.ceh.org.au/mghp.aspx).

<sup>1</sup> Victorian Casino & Gaming Authority (2000) *Impact of Gaming upon Specific Cultural Groups*. Victorian Commission for Gaming and Racing, Melbourne

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*

<sup>3</sup> Department of Justice (2009) *A Study of Gambling in Victoria – Problem Gambling from a Public Health Perspective*. Department of Justice, Melbourne.

<sup>4</sup> City of Darebin Council (2005) *Pokie-free Places and Activities for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities in Darebin Project*. City of Darebin, Melbourne.

<sup>5</sup> Victorian Casino & Gaming Authority (2000) *Impact of Gaming upon Specific Cultural Groups*. Victorian Commission for Gaming and Racing, Melbourne.

<sup>6</sup> Office for Gaming and Racing (2009) *Health Promotion Resource Kit for Problem Gambling*. Department of Justice, Melbourne.

<sup>7</sup> Victorian Multicultural Gambler's Help Program (2008) *Problem Gambling in New and Emerging Refugee Communities: A Research Report on the Liberian, Somali, Iraqi Musli and Sudanese Dinka Communities*. Centre for Culture, Ethnicity and Health, Melbourne.

<sup>8</sup> Victorian Multicultural Gambler's Help Program (n.d) *Western Region Profile*. Centre for Culture, Ethnicity and Health, Melbourne.