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An Australian Government Initiative



**Health**  
South Western Sydney  
Local Health District



# SCREENING FOR GAMBLING HARM: A PILOT PROJECT

DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A MODEL FOR  
GAMBLING HARM SCREENING AND REFERRAL

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# AGENDA

1. Fairfield City Health Alliance
2. Gambling in NSW and Fairfield
3. 7 Dimensions of Gambling Harm
4. Issues
5. Design, Implementation & Review
6. Screening results
7. Recommendations & Next steps

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# FAIRFIELD CITY HEALTH ALLIANCE (FCHA)



A unique collaboration between Fairfield City Council, SWSLHD and SWSPHN with a local health needs assessment instigating the project in 2019



Wider Working Group including service providers, academics and key representative from FCHA led training development and implementation

# GAMBLING IN NSW

What proportion of people in NSW have gambling problems?



- Problem gamblers 1.0%
- Moderate risk gamblers 2.8%
- Low risk gamblers 6.6%
- Gamblers 42.9%
- Non-gamblers 46.7%



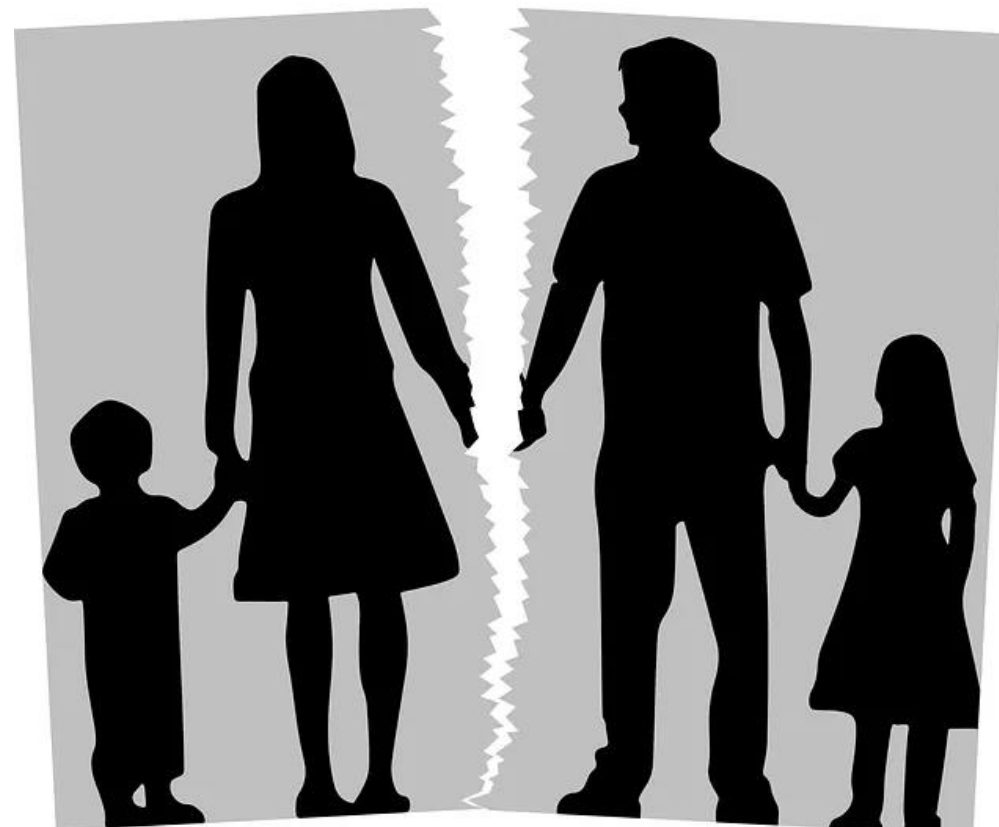


## GAMBLING IN FAIRFIELD

- **High density of poker machines:** 3,354 machines in 18 registered clubs; 507 in hotels
- **Highest per capita losses** of any LGA in Greater Sydney: \$1.4 million lost per day to pokies
- **Lower than average weekly incomes:** \$1,222 household income (\$1,486 NSW average) in 2016
- **High proportion of CALD communities**
- **High numbers of refugee settlement:** Approximately 4,700 refugees arrived in Fairfield in 2016
- **Low-socioeconomic status**

# WHAT IS GAMBLING HARM?

1. Relationship disruption, conflict or breakdown
2. Health
3. Emotional or psychological distress
4. Financial problems
5. Issues with work or study
6. Cultural problems
7. Criminal activity



# ISSUES



Only 8-10 % of people with gambling issues seek formal help



Comorbidities



GPs and CWs do not routinely screen for gambling harm



GPs and CWs largely unaware of referral options

# DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION & REVIEW



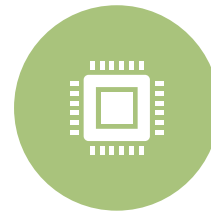
CO-DESIGN



WEBINAR



INFO & RESOURCE  
KIT



SCREENING



INTERVIEWS



REVIEW &  
RECOMMENDATIONS



# SCREENING RESULTS



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## Screening for gambling harm: a 13-week pilot in Fairfield LGA

141 Completed screening tools

10 Community Workers

2 General Practitioners

60%

experiencing harm from their own or someone else's gambling

23%

affected by someone else's gambling in the past



60%



40%



10%

referral rate when harm identified

37%

support service information provided

### LANGUAGES SPOKEN (%)



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- The screening model developed should be scaled across NSW.
- Community services are uniquely placed to implement the screening model.
- To improve GP ongoing usage and up-take, integration into clinical software is recommended.
- An indicative screening outcome would help guide interventions.
- To better understand prevalence of gambling harm in NSW, a screening outcome collection model and centralised data store should be created.

## NEXT STEPS

- Final report to be delivered to the Office by 30<sup>th</sup> September
- Academic journal article in development