

Community Clubs urge problem gamblers to seek help

Community based clubs in the ACT have called on problem gamblers to make use of Lifeline's counselling service for problem gamblers.

President of ClubsACT David Lalor made the call at today's announcement of a \$1 million, three year extension of Lifeline's ClubCare program which includes a counselling service for problem gamblers.

"We want people to visit our clubs and to enjoy everything they have to offer. The vast bulk of people who use the gaming machines do so responsibly but it's true that some people don't. Some spend more than they can afford and we'd urge them to use the counselling line if they feel they are making poor decisions and are struggling to cope".

In partnership with ACTTAB, 26 ACT Community based clubs will invest \$1,000,000 in Lifeline's ClubCare program. Along with the counselling service, Club's also train staff to observe for warning signs of problem gambling, display prominent signage urging problem gamblers to seek help and make education brochures available at their venues.

David Lalor says the community based Clubs in the ACT operate the most responsible gaming environment in Australia and they aim to keep it that way.

"The statistics from ClubCare confirm that the people who most often get into trouble with their gaming have other problems such as drug and alcohol dependency, relationship difficulties, separation issues, mental health problems and are under severe financial strain. If any of our members or patrons are facing any of these sorts of challenges in any area of their lives, we'd encourage them to contact Lifeline and get access to the advice and help that they need".

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