



Responsible Gambling

Dr Clive Allcock
Responsible Gambling Fund
NSW Government

GAMBLING IN 2006 NSW

- 69% gamble
- 56% lotteries
- 31% machines
- 20% racing

From “Prevalence of Gambling and Problem Gambling”,
OLGR, NSW, 2006

Canadian Problem Gambling Index (CPGI)

8+ (cutoff point for serious problems) and 0.8% (of adult population)

5-7 others affected by the problem gambler.

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders IVR

Pathological Gambling DSMIV

Criteria A: Persistent and recurrent maladaptive behaviour as indicated by five or more of the following:

- 1) is preoccupied with gambling
- 2) needs to gamble with increasing amounts of money in order to achieve the desired excitement

DSMIV Criteria A continued:

3) Has repeated unsuccessful efforts to control, cut back or stop gambling

4) restless or irritable when attempting to cut down or stop gambling

5) Gambles as a way of escaping from problems or of relieving a dysphoric mood.

**Note: this is an extremely important criteria frequently seen and more common in women with poker machine issues.*

DSMIV Criteria A continued:

6) after losing money gambling, often returns another day to get even (“chasing one’s losses) – VERY IMPORTANT

7) lies to family members, therapists, or others to conceal the extent of gambling (and, yes, even to therapists!!)

8) Has committing illegal acts such as forgery, fraud, theft, or embezzlement to finance gambling

DSMIV Criteria A Continued:

9) Jeopardized or lost relationships, jobs, educational or career opportunity because of gambling

10) relies on others to provide money to relieve a desperate financial situation caused by gambling.

B The gambling behavior is not better accounted for by a Manic Episode.

GETTING HELP

Gambling Help: free services online, face-to-face, telephone

1800 858 858

www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au

TAKE A DAG HISTORY!!!

DRUGS

ALCOHOL

GAMBLING

ASK THE QUESTION:

Do you Gamble?

How often?

Have you ever had a problem with gambling?

Do you currently have a problem with gambling?

OR

Has gambling ever been an issue for you?

Co-morbidity

Research shows that of those who gamble, they may also have other mental health issues:

20% (up to 70%) alcohol problems

66% smokers

OTHER CO-MORBIDITIES TO CONSIDER:

Depression - ? primary or secondary

Anxiety

Personality disorder – to date Cluster B (antisocial, histrionic, borderline, narcissistic have been cited in the literature)

SUMMARY:

Any questions?