

# FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP ON GAMBLING HARM

REDUCING GAMBLING HARM IN SOUTH WEST SYDNEY  
THROUGH LEADERSHIP, COLLABORATION  
AND ADVOCACY

## Gambling Harm in Fairfield: Starting the Conversation, April 4, 2019

Every day, Fairfield loses \$1.38million through poker machines<sup>1</sup>. It's a huge, hidden problem. There are myths about 'problem gamblers' that mask the fact that even low-risk gamblers experience harm. Families, friends, work colleagues can all be impacted. But it's hard to start talking about this because of the shame and stigma attached to gambling addiction. As community workers, we must address the issue, become informed, and learn the pathways to help our clients and friends.

### The aims of this Forum are:

- To raise awareness of the scale of harm gambling causes in Fairfield – in the local government area, \$1.38million a day is lost through poker machines;
- To educate staff about nature of the harm caused by gambling – who is impacted and how, and what that looks like when it happens to a client, work colleague or family member;
- To provide information on pathways for action – particularly CALD counselling services for immediate responses to individuals, but also other ways the message can be spread;

Attendees should leave with an understanding of how widely and deeply gambling impacts on the community they work in, be more conscious that gambling issues could lie behind the stories they hear from their clients and work colleagues, be more confident that they are able to suggest ways for individuals to seek help, and to suggest ways their own organisation could start to work to reduce gambling harm – **be better able to start the conversation**.

**The Forum Keynote speaker is Rev Tim Costello, Board member of the Alliance for Gambling Reform, and long-term advocate for reform of the industry.**

**The MC for the day is renowned journalist Steve Cannane, who has covered stories on gambling for the ABC and other media outlets.**

The Fairfield Community Action Group on Gambling Harm is a network of CEOs and senior staff working for community service organisations in Fairfield. They have come together through a shared understanding of the impact that gambling, particularly poker machine gambling, has on the communities they serve and work in. The Community Action Group plans to undertake a variety of actions to fulfil its mission of reducing gambling harm in south west Sydney through leadership, collaboration and advocacy.

The anticipated audience of the Forum are staff working in community, government or for-profit organisations, delivering services to the community in Fairfield and surrounding areas. The Forum is a professional development event.

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Liquor and Gaming, FY2018 figures.

## Gambling Harm in Fairfield: Starting the Conversation

Thursday April 4 2019

9.00 (registration) – 2.30pm

Fairfield Youth and Community Centre, 44 Vine St Fairfield

Time	Item	Speaker/workshop leader	Outcome
9.00	Registration		Collect information bag Light refreshments available
9.30	Acknowledgment of /welcome to country  Overview of day & housekeeping	MC – Stephen Cannane	
9.45	Context in Fairfield	Pam Batkin, CEO Woodville Alliance	Introduction to Fairfield Community Action Group on Gambling Harm (FCAGGH); Basic statistics on gambling in Fairfield and surrounding areas
10.00	Lived experience – panel discussion from people harmed by gambling	2-3 local people impacted by gambling  (each speaker approx 10 mins, followed by short Q & A)	Turning the statistics into real life: understanding the way gambling harms people, and the range of people harmed
10.45	Why NSW is different <b>KEYNOTE SPEAKER</b>	<b>Rev Tim Costello</b>  (followed by short Q&A)	How and why Australia, NSW and Fairfield are different when it comes to pokies; how other places (WA, Victoria) deal with gambling; what can be done
11.15	Workshop/breakout:  “What does this mean at my service/where I work/for my interaction with clients?”	Guided group discussions – Participants will be asked to list: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1 thing they’ve learnt (yellow notes)</li> <li>○ 1 way this impacts their work (green notes)</li> <li>○ More information needed, training opportunities, resourcing they think they need (orange notes)</li> </ul>	This session will give participants an opportunity to process the information just received and to consider it in terms of their workplace  Participants can place their responses on post-it notes under each category
11.50	Breakout report back	MC - Quick run through of responses under each topic	Responses will be collated and circulated in the post-Forum report
12.00	LUNCH		

<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Speaker/workshop leader</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
12.30	Busting myths: Gambling as a public health issue	Moving from “problem gambler” stereotypes: MPGS: Mary-Lou Ghyczy Multicultural Problem Gambling Service (MPGS)  Gambling as a public health issue: CHETRE: Siggi Zapart Centre for Health Equity, Training Research Evaluation, UNSW and SWSLHD  (10-15 mins each, then Q&A facilitated by MC)	Participants will gain an understanding of how gambling impacts on others beside the stereotype of someone with a gambling addiction, including family and friends or people who don’t gamble regularly  Public health approaches consider the systems in which ill-health, including addictions, can be present – this approach moves away from a focus on the individual to the social aspects of gambling.
1.15	Parallel workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Screening tool research project</li> <li>• CALD counselling</li> <li>• Starting the conversation at my workplace</li> <li>• Advocacy</li> </ul>	See details below agenda  Fairfield City Health Alliance (Susan Gibbeson)  Arab Council service; MPGS;  FCAGGH CEOs  Kate Alliance for Gambling Reform	Informing people about research & assessing current knowledge  Pathways for CALD clients or impacted staff  How to start the conversation with clients, colleagues, Board, other stakeholders  Tips on advocacy as an organisation
2.00	Summing up & next steps	Each workshop group will report back on their discussions  MC to manage this report back and to guide room to identifying 1-3 next actions for FCAGGH	Report backs will be collated and circulated in a post-Forum report
2.30	End of Forum		

## Workshop session 2

### **Screening tool project**

Fairfield City Health Alliance and the Local Health District have received a grant to develop screening tools which can be used in primary health contexts, and in community service organisations. The screening tools allow service providers to become aware of impacts and make suggestions on further help, and also will allow better collection of data of the prevalence of harm in the area.

Screening through community service organisations is not routinely done, so the project is particularly seeking feedback from service organisations, including expressions of interest to be involved in the development of the tools.

Currently available tools will be discussed, and participants will be asked how practical they think it will be in their daily work to use these tools. Participants will be asked to complete a survey about their understanding of the use of screening tools. This information will form part of the Screening tool project.

### **CALD Counselling**

Counsellors from CALD services will introduce their gambling counselling service, and explain how warm referrals can be made. They will also briefly talk about approaches to the issue of gambling harm which may be appropriate in the Fairfield area

Participants will then have an opportunity to discuss how this might be helpful for their client base, and what future activities might be valuable for their organisation and/or clients

### **Starting the conversation at my workplace**

There are a variety of ways organisations can address the issue of gambling reform. CEOs from key organisations from the Fairfield Community Action Group on Gambling Harm will outline the steps they have taken, including joining the Action Group, implementing internal gambling impact policies, and talking about the issue at staff meetings. Participants will discuss ways in which they think their organisation could start to acknowledge and incorporate information about gambling harm, and suggest future events.

### **Tips on advocacy**

Community service organisations often prefer, or are obliged by grant requirements, to provide services and information only, but not to engage in advocacy for change. However, not all advocacy requires highly visible protests outside Ministers offices – it is possible for CSOs to take action within their funding and Board guidelines to raise the issue of gambling harm.

Kate da Costa is the NSW campaigner for the Alliance for Gambling Reform which is a national advocacy organisation seeking to prevent or minimize gambling harm. She will guide discussion on the various ways organisations can act to increase awareness and seek change.