

The Queensland Responsible Gambling Strategy

# Responsible gambling education Principles & Guidelines

Reducing the risk factors for problem gambling through early intervention



- These Principles and Guidelines have been developed as advice to schools should they wish to implement responsible gambling curriculum.

They draw on the Health Promoting Schools Framework of the United Nations' World Health Organisation and have been endorsed by Education Queensland.

## Curriculum

The main objectives of responsible gambling curriculum are to develop knowledge, skills and sound values in relation to gambling issues and to provide early intervention and harm minimisation strategies.

### Guidelines

- Responsible gambling education should derive from and further develop the values, attitudes and behaviours of individuals and communities.
- Gambling should be addressed as part of a holistic health and well-being program that incorporates a number of health issues in a coordinated manner.
- School-based programs should contribute to the achievement of learning outcomes and learning activities should be developed to allow students opportunities to demonstrate achievement of those outcomes.
- The school health program should incorporate responsible gambling education into planning and relate it to other at-risk behaviours (eg. drugs and alcohol).
- School-based programs should be sequential, ongoing and appropriate to the relevant developmental, cultural, language, socioeconomic, lifestyle and gender differences of the students.
- Messages about responsible gambling should be presented in an unbroken progressive sequence across year levels.
- School-based programs should be research-based and incorporate information relevant to the local community and to the student body.
- Staff who provide responsible gambling education should have an understanding of the issues associated with gambling and an ability to recognise possible side-effects of problem gambling (such as change in academic performance, truancy, behaviour management).
- Professional development for teachers should focus on how to inform students of the risks associated with gambling without teaching students how to gamble.

## Learning and Teaching

Responsible gambling education programs are developed to enhance the achievement of learning outcomes, and teaching strategies engage students in active inquiry, interactive learning and problem solving.

### Guidelines

- Learning and teaching processes should encourage students to develop a critical awareness about the impact of gambling on society and to reflect on how it may affect their own lives.
- Connections should be made obvious between problem gambling and the dimensions of health (e.g. social, community, emotional and mental health) through strategies that develop understandings about consequences of actions.
- Materials should be available that provide relevant, contemporary information and data on problem gambling and its incidence in society.<sup>1</sup>
- Information should be presented from various perspectives to enable students to consider all issues.
- Teachers should take the opportunity to correct perceptions and myths about the chances of winning when they arise.
- Responsible gambling resources should complement the role of the teacher not be a substitute for that role and should contribute to the achievement of identified learning outcomes.

<sup>1</sup> For more information refer to:

<http://www.decs.act.gov.au/services/pdf/Pamphlet.pdf>

[http://www.wpro.who.int/themes\\_focuses/theme2/focus2/themes2\\_focus2a4.asp](http://www.wpro.who.int/themes_focuses/theme2/focus2/themes2_focus2a4.asp)

[http://www.unicef.org/lifeskills/index\\_8028.html](http://www.unicef.org/lifeskills/index_8028.html)  
[sites accessed 22 August 2003]

## School organisation, policies and procedures

Policies and procedures at the school support the school's approach to gambling education.

### Guidelines

- Schools should include statements about responsible gambling in school-based policies. These statements should be linked with other relevant education policies (eg. human relationships education, drug and alcohol education, education for HIV/AIDS, behaviour management, peer support, peer mediation).
- Messages about responsible gambling should be consistent and interconnected within the programs of each school.
- School procedures should be established to respond to student disclosure and for students to seek appropriate support if necessary. Staff should receive appropriate training in these procedures.
- School fundraising activities should be consistent with the intended outcomes of the school's gambling education programs.

## Partnerships and community engagement

Opportunities are available for students, parents and the wider community to provide input into the programs at both the planning and implementation stages.

### Guidelines

- Members of related community agencies should be involved in planning relevant curriculum programs and in the provision of local information and case studies.
- Parents, guardians and the school community should be informed about the school's approach to responsible gambling education.
- With teacher/school and family support, students should be encouraged to initiate or participate in campaigns and other social projects to raise awareness about responsible gambling within the local community as part of the school's responsible gambling curriculum.
- Students should have information and access to community resources for personal or friend/family support if required. Protocols for referral of students considered at-risk or seeking support should be established with appropriate community organisations.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> For example: Gambling Help or Kids Helpline.





## Gambling Help Services

Gambling Help Brisbane (Mt Gravatt, Spring Hill, Windsor)	Relationships Australia	(07) 3349 5111
Gambling Help Logan	Relationships Australia	(07) 3808 9235
Gambling Help Gold Coast	Relationships Australia	(07) 5575 6122
Gambling Help Ipswich	Relationships Australia	(07) 3281 8677
Gambling Help Toowoomba & South West	Lifeline Darling Downs & South West Qld	(07) 4632 2615
Gambling Help Caboolture & Redcliffe Peninsula	Alcohol & Drug Foundation (Interlock)	(07) 5428 6244
Gambling Help Sunshine Coast	Relationships Australia	(07) 5492 7255
Gambling Help Wide Bay & Burnett	Lifeline Community Care - Fraser District	(07) 4124 3839
Gambling Help Rockhampton & Central Queensland	Relationships Australia	(07) 4927 4000
Gambling Help Mackay & Whitsunday	Relationships Australia	(07) 4957 4542
Gambling Help Townsville	Centacare Townsville	(07) 4772 7799
Gambling Help Cairns	Lifeline Cairns Region	(07) 4050 4955
Gambling Help Mt Isa	Centacare Townsville	(07) 4743 4449
Moonyah Rehabilitation Service, Red Hill	Salvation Army	(07) 3369 0922

**Gambling Help Line 1800 222 050**  
*(free call in Queensland, 24 Hours)*  
**Lifeline (24 hours) 13 11 14**  
**Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800**