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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Tuesday 23 April, 2013

### **\$48 MILLION FOR NSW PROBLEM GAMBLING SERVICES**

The Minister for Hospitality and Racing, George Souris, today announced contracts worth more than \$48 million over four years for high quality counselling and support services for problem gamblers across NSW.

Mr Souris said the Government's Responsible Gambling Fund will support mainstream and multicultural problem gambling counselling services, legal support for problem gamblers, and professional training for counsellors.

"Today I am very pleased to announce the 56 services which have successfully tendered for contracts to provide high quality problem gambling counselling and support services on behalf of the Government over the next four years," Mr Souris said.

"These organisations will share in more than \$10.7 million in funding in 2013-14 and more than \$48 million through to June 2017.

"Face-to-face counselling services will be funded across NSW including Sydney, the Central Coast, Hunter, Illawarra, New England/NorthWest, North Coast, Riverina/Murray, South East and Western NSW regions.

"Statewide services will also be provided to support problem gamblers from non-English speaking backgrounds, to help problem gamblers facing legal difficulties, and to ensure that NSW's gambling counsellors have access to the latest professional training.

"These organisations and services will deliver best practice programs and support to efficiently and effectively target problem gambling on the frontline of metropolitan, regional and remote communities - right across our State."

Mr Souris said the Government will be supporting problem gambling services that are accessible and relevant to local communities and of a consistently high standard.

"The Government conducted a needs analysis into the problem gambling sector last year which consulted widely and examined data about gambling prevalence and counselling needs and access across the State," Mr Souris said.

"Areas identified for improvement included better access to more after hours counselling support; access to financial counselling alongside therapeutic counselling; appropriate referrals to skilled clinicians for problem gamblers facing complex mental health issues; more community education about problem gambling and greater promotion of counselling services; and the need to ensure quality services were supported and shaped by measured outcomes.

“Over the next four years we will be providing services tailored to specific community needs to help turn around the lives of the 0.8 per cent of the NSW adult population that has a gambling problem, to bring relief to not only them but also their families and loved ones.”

Mr Souris said 24-hour telephone counselling support will also continue to be available as well as access to support via the internet and email to ensure problem gamblers can get the help they when and where they most need it.

For further information on problem gambling support services visit [www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au) or phone 1800 858 858.

<b>PROBLEM GAMBLING COUNSELLING SERVICES BY REGION</b>			
<b>Region</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Service Location</b>	<b>2013-14</b>
<b>Central Coast</b>	Peninsula Community Centre Inc.	Wyong, Gosford	\$189,188
	UnitingCare Unifam Counselling and Mediation	Wyong, Gosford	\$138,339
	UnitingCare Mental Health	West Gosford	\$93,632
	Wesley Mission – Central Coast	Wyong	\$138,912
<b>Coastal Sydney</b>	Arab Council Australia	Canterbury	\$60,880
	CatholicCare	Lewisham	\$110,683
	Co-As-It	Leichhardt	\$95,716
	Hopestreet	East Sydney Woolloomooloo	\$270,000
	Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury	Gordon	\$78,165
	Mission Australia	Campsie Sydney CBD	\$240,060
	Northern Sydney Local Health District	Hornsby, Ryde, St Leonards	\$268,000
	Northern Sydney Local Health District - Chinese	Hornsby, St Leonards	\$83,011
	St Vincent’s Hospital	Darlinghurst	\$524,992
	Sydney Women’s Centre	Campsie	\$91,954
	UnitingCare Mental Health	Warringah	\$97,124
	University of Sydney	Darlington	\$437,253
	Wesley Mission	Sydney CBD, Hurstville, Kogarah, Sutherland	\$613,770
<b>Hunter</b>	Mission Australia	Newcastle, Singleton	\$133,414
	Mission Australia Aboriginal Specific Service	Newcastle	\$100,000
	Samaritans Foundation	Cessnock	\$100,000
	Wesley Mission	Newcastle	\$220,000
	Woodrising Neighbourhood Centre	Woodrising	\$96,478
<b>Illawarra</b>	Mission Australia	Wollongong	\$349,992
	UnitingCare Unifam Counselling and Mediation	Nowra	\$95,995
	Wesley Mission	Wollongong	\$135,949
<b>New England/North West</b>	Anglicare Northern Inland	Tamworth, Armidale	\$140,078
	Centacare NENW	Tamworth. Armidale	\$76,000
<b>North Coast</b>	Lifeline North Coast	Coffs Harbour, Grafton,	\$172,677

		Nambucca Heads	
	Mission Australia – Aboriginal Specific Service	Kempsey	\$73,800
	Northern Rivers Gambling Counselling Service	Bangalow, Lismore, Byron Bay, Ballina, Tweed Heads	\$290,000
	Samaritans Foundation	Port Macquarie, Taree	\$114,030
<b>Riverina/Murray</b>	Mission Australia	Wagga Wagga	\$158,889
	Mission Australia Aboriginal Specific Service	Wagga Wagga	\$120,837
	UnitingCare Goulburn North East – St David’s Care	Albury	\$179,177
	Wagga Wagga Family Support	Wagga Wagga	\$175,000
<b>South East</b>	Anglicare Canberra & Goulburn	Goulburn	\$223,633
<b>South West Sydney</b>	Arab Council Australia	Bankstown	\$143,859
	Mission Australia	Campbelltown	\$132,735
	UnitingCare Unifam Counselling & Meditation	Campbelltown	\$136,670
	South West Sydney Local Health District	Liverpool	\$125,249
	UnitingCare Mental Health	Fairfield, Bankstown	\$156,267
	University of Sydney	Campbelltown	\$204,903
	Vietnamese Community in Australia	Cabramatta, Bankstown	\$150,252
	Wesley Mission	Fairfield	\$45,540
<b>Western Sydney</b>	Arab Council Australia	Granville	\$60,605
	CatholicCare	Blacktown, Emerton	\$295,365
	Mission Australia Aboriginal Specific Service	Parramatta	\$119,742
	St Vincent de Paul	Baulkham Hills, Windsor	\$140,050
	University of Sydney	Lidcombe, Parramatta	\$357,851
	Unitingcare Mental Health	Parramatta, Castle Hill	\$191,792
	Wesley Mission	Kingswood	\$297,829
<b>Western NSW</b>	Lifeline Broken Hill	Broken Hill	\$100,000
	Lifeline Central West	Bathurst Dubbo	\$340,600
<b>Statewide Multicultural Service</b>	Western Sydney Local Health District – Transcultural Mental Health Centre	Statewide	\$518,394
<b>Statewide Training Service</b>	Association of Children’s Welfare Agencies - Centre for Community Welfare Training	Statewide	\$446,031
<b>Statewide Legal Service</b>	Wesley Mission – Legal Service	Statewide	\$259,838
<b>Total funding 2013-14</b>			\$10,711,200

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