



MEDIA RELEASE

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Focus on responsible gambling

The gambling support team at the Ballarat Centre of Relationships Australia (Victoria) is gearing up for Responsible Gambling Awareness Week (RGAW), which runs from 25 – 29 May.

Ms Kathy Griffin, Coordinator of Gambler's Help Grampians, said the theme this year was Knowledge, Balance and Control.

Ms Griffin said that for some people, gambling could become a serious issue in their lives.

"Productivity Commission research shows that for every one person who has difficulty controlling their gambling, 7-10 others are likely to be impacted," she said.

"Unfortunately, gambling often goes unnoticed due to the shame and stigma that many individuals feel about having a gambling problem. The problem may be disguised as a financial difficulty or an issue with trust."

Ms Griffin said RGAW was a state-wide initiative between government, the gaming industry, local government and the community sector.

It aimed to encourage responsible gambling and to provide information to those who have difficulty managing their gambling behaviour on how and where to get help, such as that provided by Gambler's Help services.

These services include counselling, financial counselling, advice and referrals, and are also available to those affected by the gambling of someone else.

The Gambler's Help team at RAV can be contacted on 5337 9222 for more information. The toll free Gambler's Helpline - 1800 858 858 – is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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