

# ECCV Position Paper on issues relating to Gambling

March 2017

## Background

This position statement builds on the [Let's talk about gambling in multicultural communities](#)<sup>1</sup> ECCV forum summary report and highlights culturally specific health and wellbeing issues on gambling-related behaviours and harm amongst people from culturally, linguistically, religiously diverse backgrounds in Victoria. The statement suggests ways forward in mitigating health impacts and harm resulting from activities linked to gambling.

## ECCV Position

1. ECCV states that issues related to gambling significantly impact on the health and wellbeing of culturally diverse people, families and communities.
2. ECCV highlights that culturally, linguistically, and religiously diverse people are often very vulnerable to gambling harm due to issues relating to communicating in English, social isolation, elder abuse, and in the context of navigating support services.
3. ECCV notes that often culturally diverse people are suffering from socially isolation and feel alone when seeking help in situations of crisis.
4. ECCV emphasises the need to protect vulnerable culturally diverse people from gambling harm.
5. ECCV highlights that gambling behaviours leading to harm are often considered a *taboo* amongst culturally, linguistically, and religiously diverse families, networks, organisations, and communities.
6. ECCV notes that personal and cultural attitudes towards gambling vary significantly amongst multicultural Victorians.
7. ECCV acknowledges that multicultural Victorians are diverse in terms of ethnicity, language, religion, gender, and age and that people's individual life experiences vary greatly.
8. ECCV acknowledges the work that is done by [culturally and linguistically specific gambling counselling programs](#)<sup>2</sup> and founded through the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation.

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<sup>1</sup> Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria, 2014, *Let's talk about gambling in multicultural communities*, ECCV Responsible Gambling Awareness Week Forum, forum summary report, available at [www.eccv.org.au](http://www.eccv.org.au).

<sup>2</sup> Australian Vietnamese Women's Association, 2017, *Gambling Counselling Program*, available at: <http://www.avwa.org.au/index.php/gambling-counselling>

9. ECCV advocates for an increase in culturally specific and bilingual support services and health responses to help mitigating gambling-related harm of culturally diverse people.
10. ECCV suggests to employ and train bilingual staff to help identify and provide support to culturally, linguistically, and religiously diverse patrons when experiencing gambling-related harm at gaming venues.
11. ECCV advocates that [self-exclusion programs](#) are culturally and linguistically appropriate to ensure culturally people and families are aware of these, understand how these work, and can access them.
12. ECCV advocates for stronger collaboration between the Victorian Government, local Government, the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation, and ethnic and multicultural services providers and organisations in raising awareness in multicultural communities on health-related gambling issues.
13. ECCV suggests that awareness raising initiatives on health related-gamble issues promote information through ethnic and multicultural media outlets to effectively and widely reach out to culturally diverse people.
14. ECCV suggests that promotional awareness campaigns tailor messages to culturally diverse people to ensure messages are culturally appropriate and easily understandable.
15. ECCV acknowledges the expertise and programs that local councils in parts of Victoria have developed in promoting culturally inclusive recreational opportunities and community participation.
16. ECCV advocates for local and culturally appropriate social activities and wellbeing initiatives with a view to promoting social inclusion and community participation of culturally diverse Victorians.
17. ECCV suggests that gambling-related prevention programs with a focus on social participation of culturally diverse Victorians are enhanced.
18. ECCV advocates for further [research](#)<sup>3</sup> on experiences, attitudes and beliefs on gambling across Victoria's culturally, linguistically, and religiously diverse community members.

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<sup>3</sup> Feldman, S. et. al. , 2014, *A qualitative investigation of the experiences, attitudes and beliefs about gambling in the Chinese and Tamil communities in Victoria*, Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation, available at: [https://www.responsiblegambling.vic.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/8002/Research-report-Feldman-Chinese-and-Tamil-communities-May-2014-a.pdf](https://www.responsiblegambling.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/8002/Research-report-Feldman-Chinese-and-Tamil-communities-May-2014-a.pdf)