



Wednesday, 9 October 2019

## **ECCV launches Gambling Harm Awareness Campaign**

The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) launches its first digital Gambling Harm Awareness campaign, running from Monday, 7 October to Friday, 11 October 2019.

Building on past work on gambling harm prevention, from ECCV's Interim and Evaluation Reports to the Gambling Harm Forum in June, The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria is partnering with the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation to amplify the message of #TalkShareSupport for this year's Gambling Harm Awareness Week.

Victorians have lost \$2.6 billion gambling at the 'pokies' – or \$7,149,397 every day – from 2016 to 2017. They have also lost a total of \$50 billion in total gambling over the past 25 years. In total, \$2.699 billion was lost in Victoria at the pokies between 1 July 2018 and 30 June 2019. This is an increase of around \$3.4 million, or 0.13 per cent, from pokies losses in 2017-2018.

However, gambling harm goes beyond financial loss, with devastating impacts including the loss of homes, family breakdown, domestic violence, and the loss of lives. This is especially a concern for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities, who are more vulnerable to problem gambling.

ECCV Chairperson Cr Kris Pavlidis says that the problem of gambling harm and how to address it is an issue across Victoria's culturally and ethnically diverse communities.

"There is silence and secrecy around the issue of gambling harm due to stigma and shame, and this is something that we absolutely need to find ways to work together to counter."

This year, ECCV's Gambling Harm Awareness Campaign will feature highlights from the Gambling Harm Forum, interviews with various stakeholders and lived experience, information on where to find support, as well as statistics on the impact of gambling harm.

**Follow the Gambling Harm Awareness campaign on our social media @EthnicVic**



-EOM-

*Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) is the peak advocacy body for culturally diverse communities in Victoria, since 1974. As the voice for multicultural Victoria, ECCV is the conduit with government and other stakeholders. We are a member-driven organisation representing over 220 organizations on behalf of 70,000 members across Victoria. [www.eccv.org.au](http://www.eccv.org.au)*

**For interview opportunities, please contact:**

**Anjali Nambissan – ECCV Communications & Membership Coordinator**

**[anambissan@eccv.org.au](mailto:anambissan@eccv.org.au) | 0431 091 738**