ALICE, DARWIN COMMUNITY GROUPS RECEIVE PROBLEM GAMBLING GRANTS

The Territory Government has handed out nearly $1 million to community groups to address problem gambling in the community, Minister for Racing, Gaming and Licensing Syd Stirling announced today.

Mr Stirling said the funds were out of the Community Benefit Fund Amelioration Grants Program and would be distributed to Amity Community Services, Anglicare NT, and Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi in Alice Springs.

“For the majority of people, gambling is an enjoyable pastime, but for a few people it can become a problem that not only affects their own lives, but their families and the wider community,” Mr Stirling said.

“The Community Benefit Fund’s amelioration program has been set up to support those community groups who provide valuable services to problem gamblers and their families.

“Government has also provided funding for a major research project into gambling in the Territory. The results of that research, due later this year, will help us to get a clearer picture of gambling in the Territory so we can continue to better focus funding where it is most needed.”

Amity applied for three years’ worth of funding and will receive more than $288,000 in 2005-06 and close to $260,000 for each of 2006-07 and 2007-08.

The funding will see Amity’s existing problem gambling support services continue, including a gambling intervention program, counselling, and maintenance of its website and gambling helpline.

Amity will also use some of the funds for a new education and intervention program providing support to Indigenous gamblers, their families and communities.

Anglicare will receive almost $130,000 for its existing programs in Darwin ($35,956) and Alice Springs (93,927). The organisation provides a problem gambling harm minimisation program in Darwin and Alice Springs, including addictions counselling and financial counselling.

For the first time, Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi in Alice Springs will also receive funding worth almost $60,000 to increase awareness of problem gambling and the negative impact it has on families and communities. The project will build support networks for families in remote areas and provide guidance on money management.

Contact: Mary Fall  0401 119 770

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