

Aboriginal Family Support Services
Together with the community



Aboriginal Gambling Help Service





Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and respect Aboriginal peoples as the state's first peoples and nations, and recognise them as traditional owners and occupants of land and waters in South Australia. Further, we acknowledge that the spiritual, social, cultural and economic practices of Aboriginal peoples come from their traditional lands and waters, that they maintain their cultural and heritage beliefs, languages and laws which are of ongoing importance, and that they have made and continue to make a unique and irreplaceable contribution to the state.

We acknowledge that Aboriginal peoples have endured past injustice and dispossession of their traditional lands and waters.



Who are we:

- AFSS established in 1978
- Over 450 employee across SA
- AFSS Gambling program has been funded since 2010
- Port Lincoln and surroundings, Port Augusta (council region only, inc. Stirling North) Murray Bridge and surrounding areas as far as Mannum and Meningie/Raukkan, Riverland region from Waikerie through to, Renmark/Paringa and south to Loxton
- Culturally responsive practice





Our Mission:

Aboriginal Family Support Services acknowledges the diversity of Aboriginal communities and ensures that all services are innovative, creative and healing-based.

Through strong leadership Aboriginal Family Support Services influences change in policies and service delivery in all areas of capacity building within Aboriginal families and communities.

We maintain that our Aboriginal heritage is beyond value and no child should be deprived of its richness.



Our framework

Building resilience
Promoting Connectedness
Community Awareness and Education





Community Engagement





Community Engagement





Gambling Awareness





Historical context and background

Over 500 communities across Australia when colonisation occurred.

Currently 46 different Aboriginal language groups in South Australia
(100's of sub groups)

The oldest living culture in the world

Aboriginal people are not homogenous.
Variety of family and cultural dynamics



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlqx8EYvRbQ>



Understanding how colonisation is effecting Aboriginal People today

- Grief, loss, trauma
- Connection to land/traditional culture/community
- Breakdown of kinship systems & traditional knowledge
- Racism
- Alcohol and drug misuse/other substance misuse
- Institutionalism and child removal policies
- Community support/media coverage
- Incarceration
- Family & Community violence
- Young maternal age
- Unhealthy lifestyle factors – nutrition, smoking, alcohol, drugs
- Poor general health/lower life expectancy
- Housing
- Poor educational outcomes



22%

Complete
Year 12

17%

Unemployment
(3.4 x higher)

26%

Of housing has major
structural problems

INDIGENOUS SOCIETY

An overview of a small sample of the difficulties and disadvantages faced
by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in society.

11%

Are bullied
at school

19%

Speak an
Aboriginal
language

25%

Live in
overcrowded
housing



How Gambling is different for Aboriginal People

For each person with a gambling problem an estimated further 5-7 family members could be negatively affected.

For Aboriginal people the flow on negative effect can be 15 or more family members are directly affected due to the complexity of the Aboriginal family structure.



Importance of the family unit

Across all Aboriginal communities:

- Extended family is as important as 'immediate' family.
- Aunties, Uncles, cousins are considered as brothers, sistas and parents
- Nobody turns family away
- 'Humbugging ' or asking around for money from others is now seen as normal behaviour but is not really cultural

(This stems from practices where people shared resources with anyone who needed them)



Aboriginal people and gambling

- Traditional gambling – card playing in community
- Social connection/cultural engagement- share stories
- Shared resources in community
- Younger people more exposed to gambling activities
- Reduces boredom and loneliness



Aboriginal people and gambling

(con't)

Gaming venues offer:

- safe environment
 - tea, coffee,
 - air conditioning
 - long opening hours
-
- Unemployment – more access and time,
 - Over crowding in houses- venues are more attractive/safer
 - Social interaction away from family (violence, space)



Aboriginal people see gambling problems as a source of **shame** and **stigma** which often precludes them from seeking help

People who work in professional roles or are respected Elders are particularly **vulnerable**

“we as a people don’t like talking about gambling problems”

Ashley Gordon, Ministerial Experts Group on Gambling



Moving forward

- ❖ Continue to work with community to increase awareness around gambling and its impact on family
- ❖ Strengthen links with community services to ensure other community service providers and their workers are aware of the impact of problem gambling on the community and families
- ❖ Provide regular presentations that are open to all community members and community service workers on a range of gambling topics, eg Myths and Facts about Gambling





Any questions you may have can be addressed after the OPG as we will all be available to chat during the lunch period.

Thankyou for your attention and time