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# VRGF Gambling Harm Conference August 2018 Taking Action For Change



**WOMEN'S HEALTH  
IN THE NORTH**



# Women's Health In the North (WHIN)

WHIN is a State Government-funded regional women's health service. Its catchment is the northern metropolitan region of Melbourne.

WHIN is committed to reducing gender inequities in health that arise from the social, economic and environmental determinants of health. WHIN aims to strengthen women's health, safety and wellbeing with a strategic focus on:

- Gender Equity
- Preventing Violence against Women
- Coordination and Integration of Family Violence Response
- Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Economic Participation
- Environmental Justice



# WHIN's Work to Prevent Gambling Harm

**INCREASING THE ODDS  
FOR SAFETY AND RESPECT**





# Increasing the Odds for Safety Respect

‘Increasing the Odds for Safety and Respect’ project explored the coexistence of family violence and gambling harm and the impacts on women and children.

It raised awareness of the issue in the community and health and human service sectors and through professional development of family violence and problem gambling practitioners.

The project applied a gendered lens to the link between family violence and gambling.

# WHIN's Work to Prevent Gambling Harm



## INCREASING THE ODDS FOR SAFETY AND RESPECT:

A Gambling and Family Violence Issues Paper

SEPTEMBER 2017



## Submission to Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence

From

### 'Increasing the Odds for Safety and Respect' Project Partnership.

The partnership organisations are Women's Health in the North, Women's Health East, North East Primary Care Partnership and Inner East Primary Care Partnership. Funded by Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation.

20th May 2018

## GAMBLING AND FAMILY VIOLENCE FACT SHEET

### Summary

There is an established link between problem gambling and family violence. Recent international research indicates that people who have significant problems with their gambling are more likely than people without gambling problems to be the victims and perpetrators of family violence.

Although less than 1% of Australians have significant issues with their gambling, for each person with significant gambling issues, around 7.3 significant others are adversely affected. Impaired family relationships, emotional problems and financial difficulties are some of the most common effects on family members of people with gambling problems.

The use of Electronic Gaming Machines (EGMs) accounts for about 75 - 80% of problem gambling. The highest concentration of EGMs and the highest losses per head occur in the most socially and economically disadvantaged communities in Victoria.

What is lacking within the current policy and research environment are long-term prevention strategies, which are based on a well conceptualised prevention framework that recognises the social determinants of health and how they relate to problem gambling and family violence.



Family violence is an enormous problem in our community with 1 in 3 Australian women have experienced physical violence from a current or former partner, and 1 in 4 Australian women having experienced emotional abuse by a current or former partner.

Whilst there is a clear link between problem gambling and intimate partner violence, children, parents and grandparents are also the victims of violence perpetrated by those with significant gambling problems.



## INCREASING THE ODDS FOR SAFETY AND RESPECT

By Sandra Morris & Monique Ked, Women's Health in the North.

The *Increasing the Odds for Safety and Respect* project has been applying a gendered lens to its work to raise awareness of the link between family violence and gambling.

It has been working within the family violence and problem gambling sectors to improve responses to clients and enhance risk assessment tools, skills and referral processes. This is covered in the diagram below.



### Applying a Gendered Approach to the Link between Family Violence and Problem Gambling

A Non-Gendered Approach	A Gendered Approach	Examples of a Gendered Approach
Use of non-sex disaggregated data in gambling research and policy.	Use of sex-disaggregated and gender sensitive data collection.	- Researching women's and men's different experiences of harm, e.g. men's use of sexual exploitation for pay sheets.
Understand research studies and the Conflict Tactics Scales.	Understand research which recognises that family violence is gendered, with women experiencing higher levels of physical and emotional harm.	- Understanding women's use of gambling as a response to social isolation or as an artificially safe space to self-soothe when there is violence in the home.
Gendered measurements of gambling.	Understand that men have more available services.	- Exploring patterns of coercive control in relationships rather than counting participants based on single incidents of violence.
Gendered risk assessment tools and referral processes.	Recognition of intersectional or service usage.	- All data collection research methodologies that...
Gendered training courses and materials for gambling sector that does not include as a contextual issue.	Recognition of the need for men and women including the need for a coordinated case response.	

Additional resources are available from <http://www.whin.org.au>

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"FAMILY VIOLENCE IS THREE TIMES MORE LIKELY TO OCCUR IN FAMILIES THAT EXPERIENCE PROBLEM GAMBLING THAN THOSE WITH NO GAMBLING ISSUES!"

Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, 2015

## Increasing the Odds for Safety and Respect

### Consultation Summary Report



50-50

## INCREASING THE ODDS FOR SAFETY AND RESPECT

20th April, 2015



DVD and Resource Notes for Applying a Primary Prevention Approach to Gambling and Family Violence



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# Violence Against Women

**Violence against women is prevalent, serious and preventable.**

- **Prevalence:** One in 4 Australian women have experienced at least one incidence of violence by an intimate partner.
- **Severity:** Intimate violence contributes more to the burden of disease (illness, disability and death) of adult women (18-44 years) more than any other risk factor including smoking, obesity and alcohol.
- **Preventable:** Violence against women is a major public health issue, evidence shows that gender equality reduces violence against women.
- Violence against women comes in many forms and occurs in all socio-economic, age and cultural groups and locations in Australia.

ANROWS (2018) Violence Against Women: Accurate Use of Key Statistics





# Financial Costs of Violence Against Women

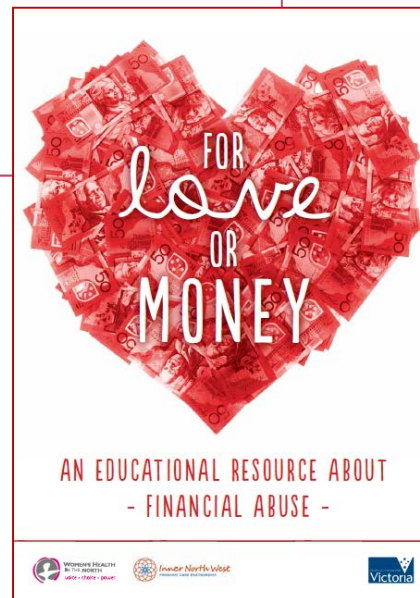
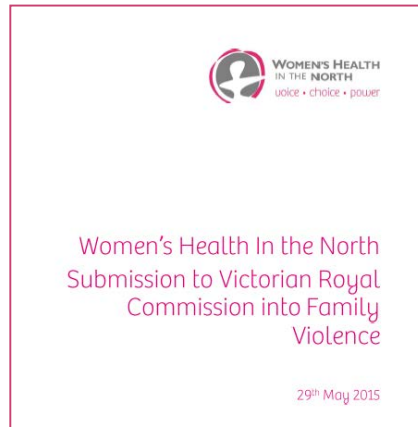
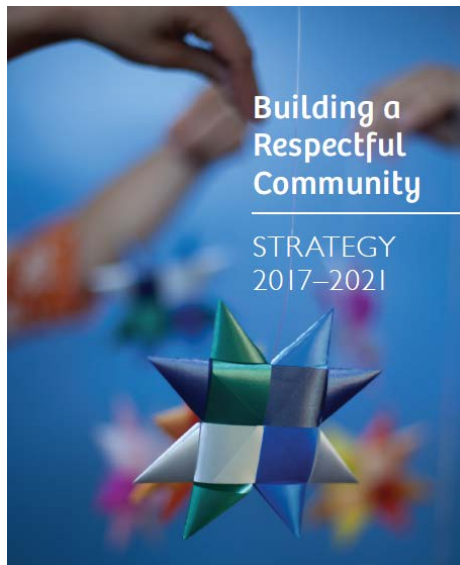
Violence Against Women was estimated to cost Australia \$22 billion in 2015-2016

Aust Inst of Health and Welfare

Estimates suggest that the annual cost of family violence in Victoria in 2014-2015 was approximately \$3.1 billion.

FVRC 2016

# WHIN's Violence Against Women Work



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# Family Violence and Gambling Harm

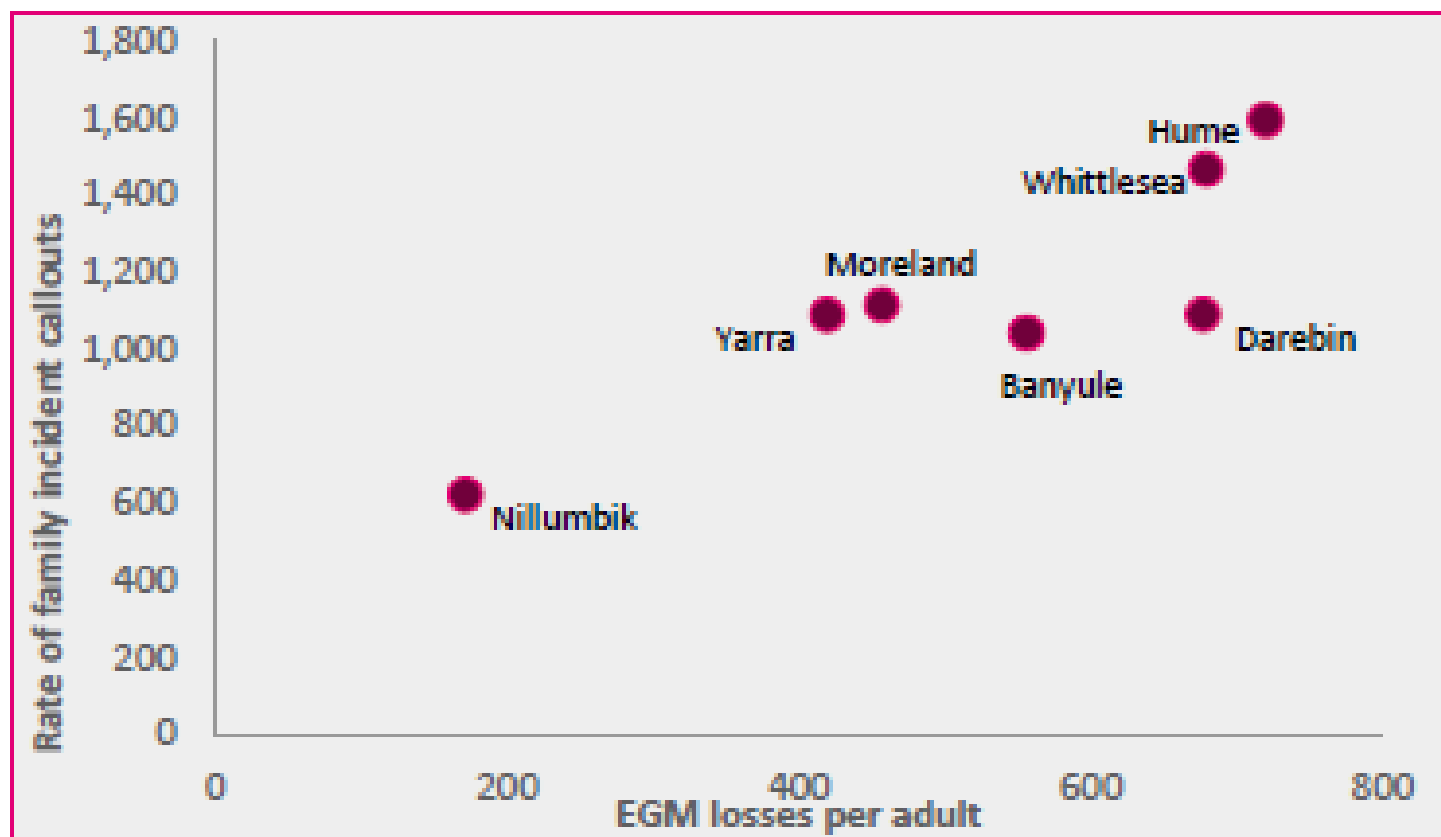
- Family violence and harm from gambling are both serious, prevalent and preventable public health issues.
- People who experience significant problems with their gambling are more likely than people with no gambling problems to be victims and perpetrators of family violence.

Nicki Dowling et al (2014)

- A strong correlation exists between electronic gaming machine (EGM) losses per adult and the rate of police callouts to family incidents.



## Association of EGM Gambling Losses per adult (\$) and rates of police callouts to family incidents in NMR 2016/16





# Family Violence and Gambling Harm

From the VRGF Submission to the Royal Commission into Family Violence:

‘There is some evidence that victimisation and perpetration of violence extends to children and other members of the broader family (Dowling et al, 2014).’

‘One-third to one-half (34 to 53 per cent) of people with gambling problems and their family members report some form of family violence in the previous 12 months (Dowling et al, 2014).’

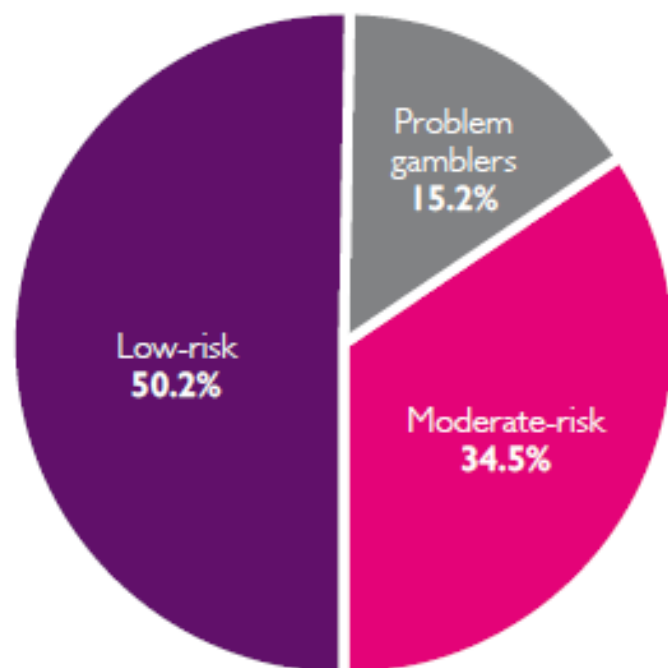


# Applying a Public Health Approach to Gambling

- A public health approach to the co-existence of gambling and family violence can help move the focus away from the notion of 'problem gambling' as individual responsibility and think in terms of 'gambling related harm'.
- 85% of gambling-related harm in Victoria is associated with low and moderate-risk gambling. (Browne et al (2016))



## Distribution of Severity of Gambling Problems



Source: Browne et al., 2016, p. 133.





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# Does Gambling Cause family Violence?



Violence against women is serious, prevalent and driven by  
**GENDER INEQUALITY**

**GENDER DRIVERS** of violence against women:

**CONDONING**  
of violence  
against women

**MEN'S CONTROL**  
of decision-making  
and limits to women's  
independence

**STEREOTYPED**  
constructions of  
masculinity and  
femininity

**DISRESPECT**  
towards women and  
male peer relations  
that emphasise  
aggression

**Gender inequality sets the NECESSARY SOCIAL CONTEXT**

<sup>4</sup> Intimate partner violence is violence between partners or ex-partners. 'Family violence' includes intimate partner violence, as well as violence between other family members, such as siblings or adult child to parent.

Our Watch, ANROWS and VicHealth (2015)



Violence against women **IS PREVENTABLE**  
if we all work together

**ACTIONS** that will prevent violence against women:

**CHALLENGE**  
condoning of  
violence against  
women

**PROMOTE**  
women's  
independence &  
decision-making

**CHALLENGE**  
gender  
stereotypes  
and roles

**STRENGTHEN**  
positive, equal  
and respectful  
relationships

**Promote and normalise GENDER EQUALITY in public and private life**

Our Watch, ANROWS and VicHealth (2015)

# 50-50 Film

50-50 models a conversation between two men, in which one of the men is challenged about attitudes and behaviour in a non-stigmatising and non-confrontational manner. The conversation prioritises the safety of women and children.

“ THE DIALOGUE RECOGNISES HOW  
MEN CAN JUSTIFY, MINIMISE, SHIFT BLAME,  
AND EXCUSE THEIR USE OF POWER  
AND CONTROL. ”



# Objective

50-50 aims to:

- increase viewers confidence in identifying and challenging comments that reflect the drivers of violence against women, including condoning of violence or seeking to control women's independence
- model appropriate responses and language to address violence-supportive attitudes
- increase confidence in referring clients to appropriate services





# View 50/50 Film

<http://www.whin.org.au/resources/gambling-and-violence-against-women/>

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# The Film Explores

- Identifying expressions of sexism and sex-role stereotyping.
- Challenging expressions of control and violence.
- Resisting views that indicate condoning of violence against women.
- Resisting invitations to collude.
- Ensuring women and children are central to the discussion and their safety is paramount.





# Conclusion

- Addressing the coexistence of family violence and gambling harm will contribute to prevention of violence against women efforts.
- It is critical to promote the adoption of evidence-based strategies to address gambling related harm and violence against women.
- It is important to recognise family violence and gambling as public health issues.
- It is critical that we keep abreast of new and emerging evidence and research to inform strategic approaches to the issue.

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