



Warruwi
gambling **HELP**



Aboriginal Communities & Gambling

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Government



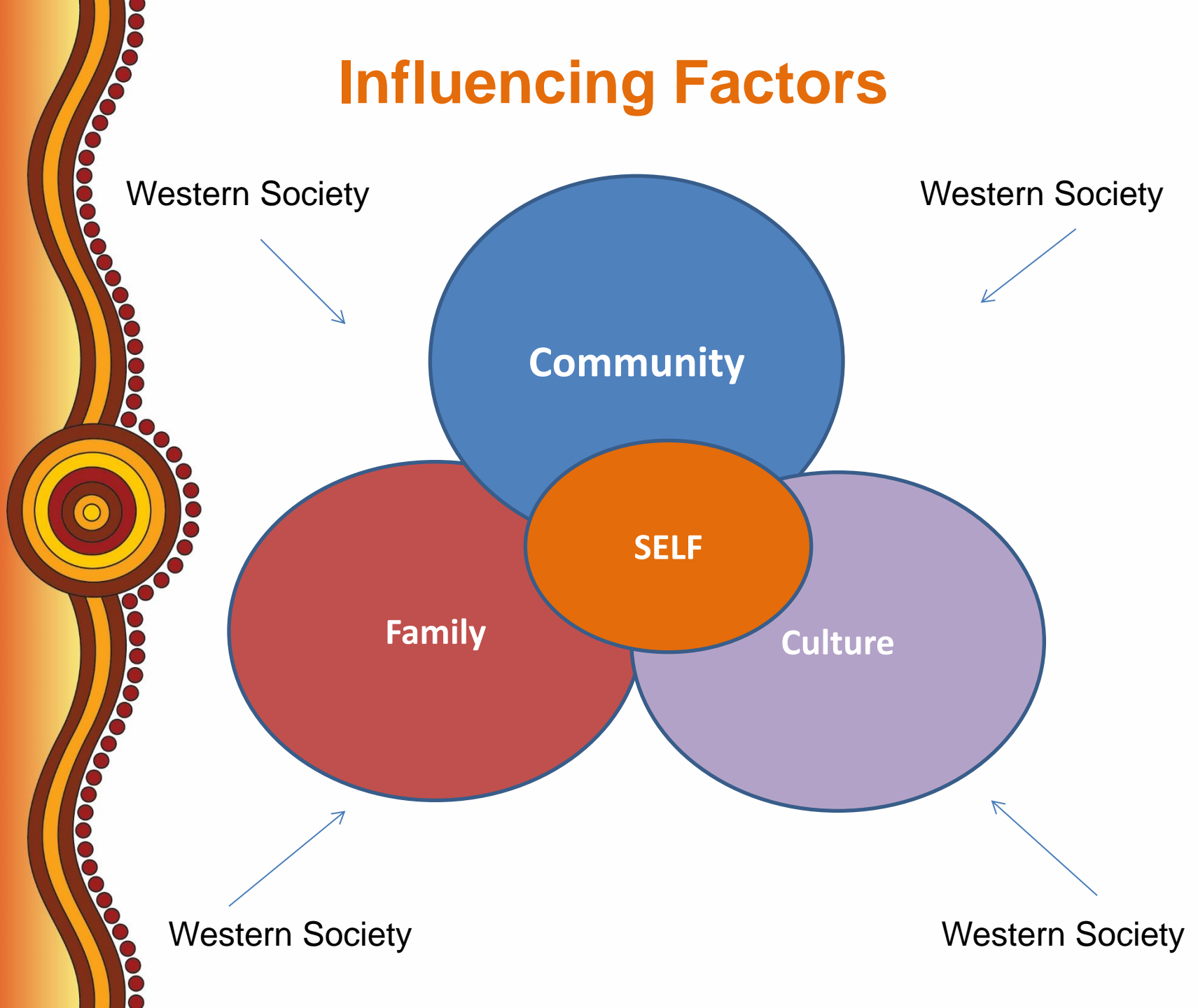


Understanding Aboriginal People Today

- Land and Spirituality
- Kinship Structures
- History and its impacts on people today
- Aboriginal culture of Today

It is important to understand that Aboriginal people do not have or come from a an individualistic world view but instead see ourselves belonging too and identifying with a **collective body**

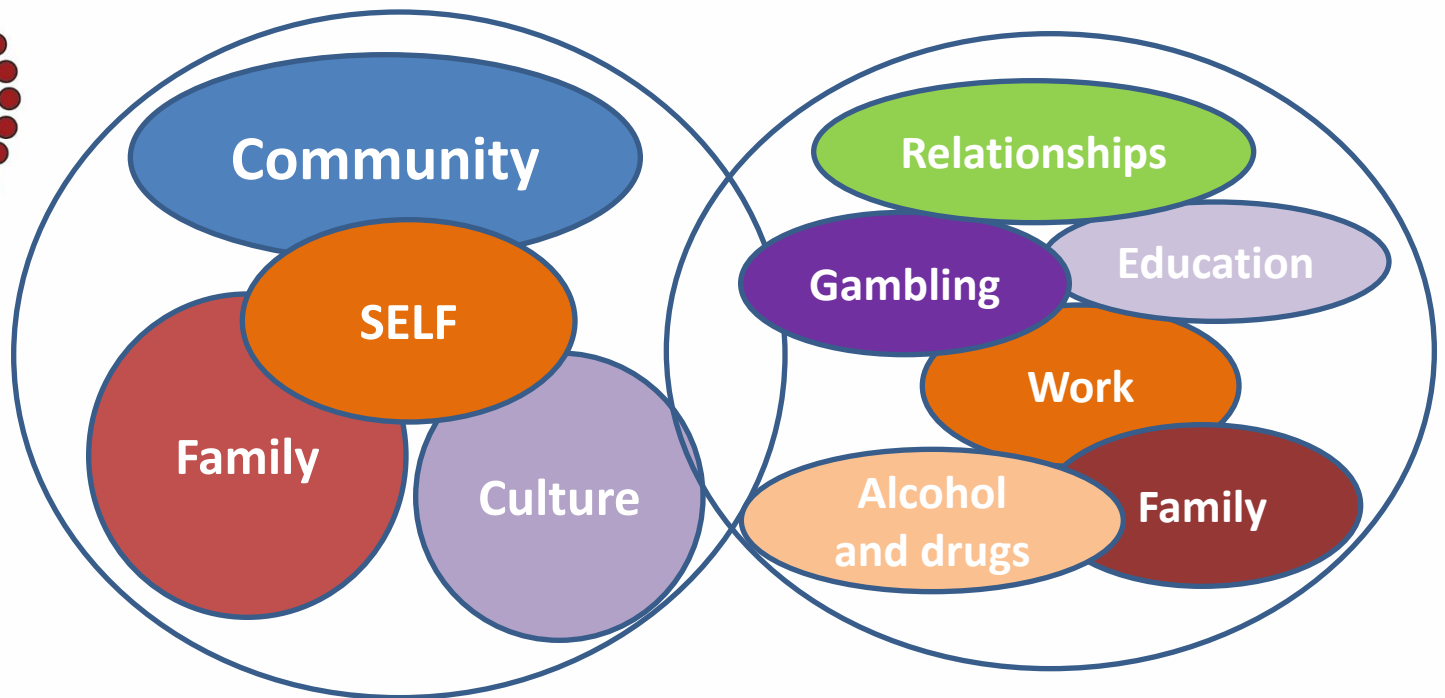
Influencing Factors



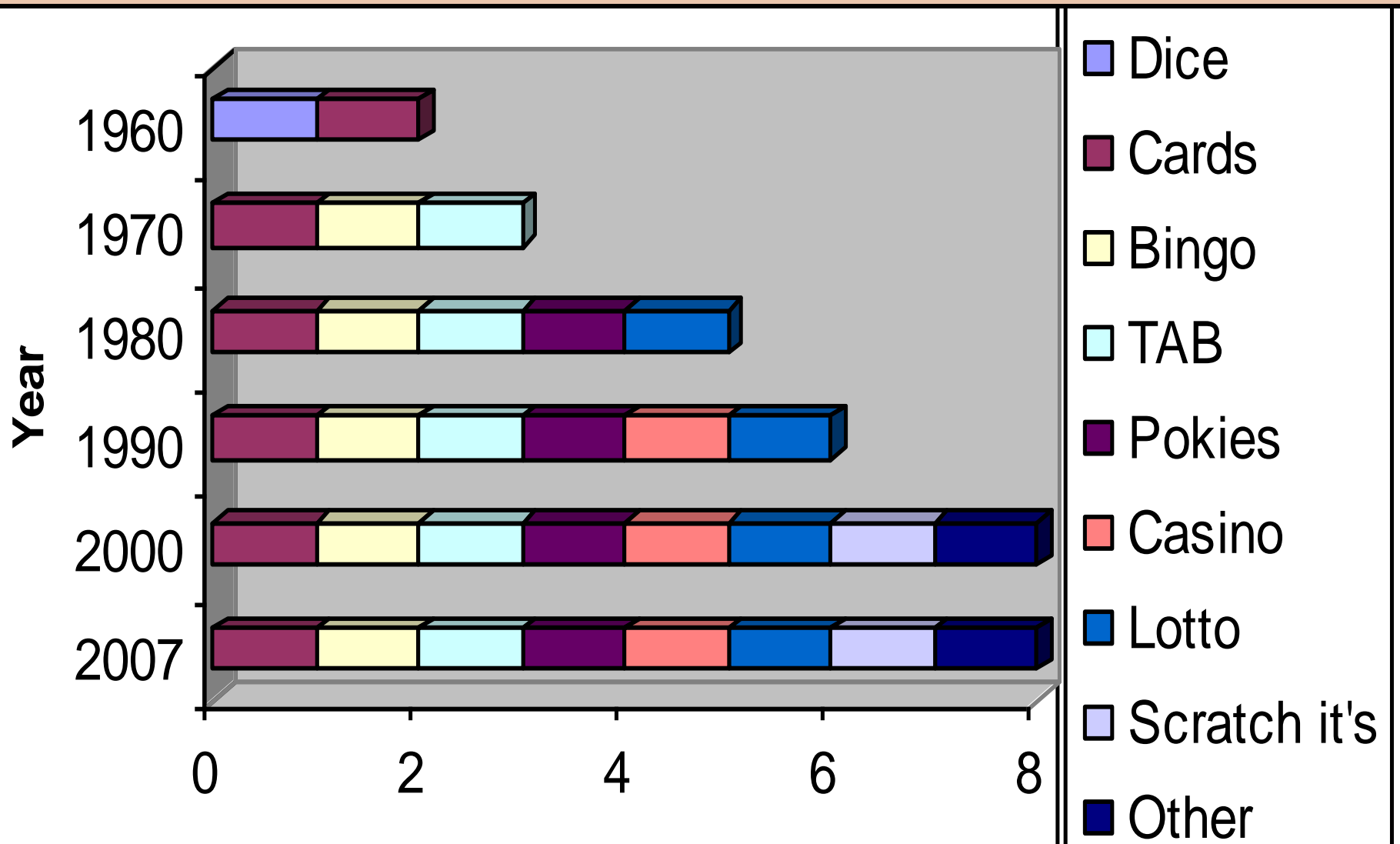
Walking in Two Worlds

Aboriginal

Non - Aboriginal



1960 - 2007



What do Aboriginal people gamble on?

Most common

- Poker machines
- Card games
- Horse racing
- Bingo
- Sports betting



Least Common

- Internet Gambling
- Keno
- Lotto
- Scratchies



What do Aboriginal people gamble on?



Poker machines more popular in large towns and cities while card playing higher in small and remote communities.



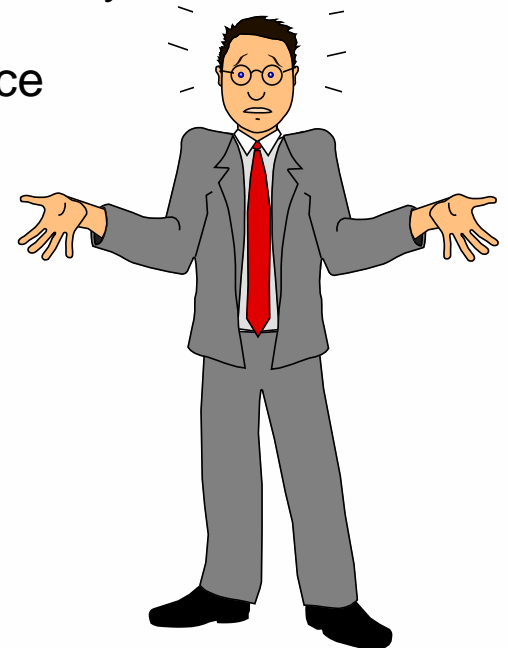
Why Do Aboriginal People Gamble?

Most Common

- To win money, hope to improve current financial situation
- To escape from problems and reality, To “zone out” and to get away from problems
- To be sociable
- For excitement
- To drink alcohol
- Learned behaviour
- Boredom, for something to do, do not have any other interests/hobbies/sports
- Becomes a routine, community acceptance

Least Common

- To avoid talking to people
- To chase losses



Gambling the Quick Fix



BOREDOM

LONELINESS

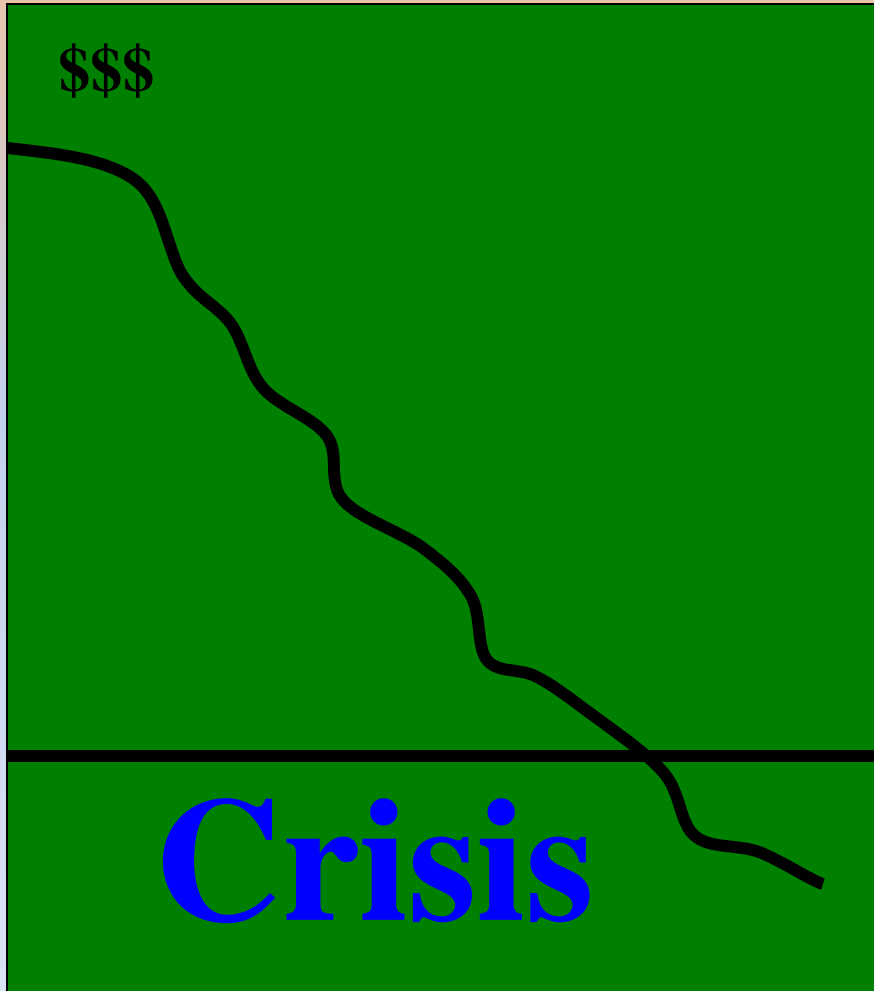
EMOTIONAL ESCAPE

EXCITEMENT

MONEY WORRIES

What's Different about Indigenous Gambling

OTHER Problem Gamblers



Cars / Houses

Investments

Savings

Business Income

Job Income

Superannuation

Community Support Line

Crisis

Gambling And Aboriginal People



Indigenous Problem Gamblers

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**Family Support
(Cultural Respect)**

Renting

**Low
Income**



Knowledge of Welfare Service

Community Support Line

**Crisis delayed .. and
delayed .. and delayed**

Gambling Can be Linked to:

- Alcohol & Drug use
- Domestic Violence
- Crime
- Suicide
- Family Breakdown
- Relationship Problems
- Child's Neglect
- Education and Training
- Employment
- Poor self esteem & confidence
- Physical, mental and spiritual health



Types of Gamblers?



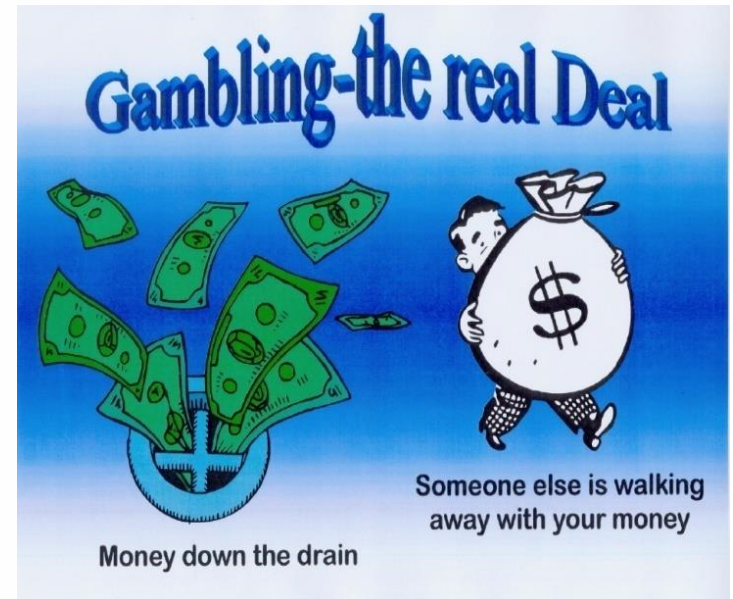
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Non-gambling Social Regular Heavy Problem

- Social & Recreation Gambler - have fun .. expect to lose. out with friends for a good time.
- Regular Gambler - goes often .. often say they are in control but may or may not be (once a week or more)
- Heavy Gambler - this could be a big hobby or a problem?

Many people move from social gambling to problem gambling, And then don't know how to stop

Why do many Aboriginal people become problem gamblers?


- Learned behaviour – parents, cousins, friends
- Often unemployed so have more time
- Many cannot stay responsible or safe gamblers
- Often bored with nothing to do, limited opportunities to do other activities – social activity
- They can always borrow from their families, or relatives etc
- Link it with alcohol



Why do many Aboriginal people become problem gamblers?

- Always have issues or problems at home so need to escape – zone out!
- Dry communities (no alcohol) often gambling becomes more popular
- Always broke, need money, unemployment benefits often not enough
- Used to being broke anyway – money management skills often poor





Why do many Aboriginal people find it hard to admit they have a gambling problem? Is it

- We often can't handle, spend or budget our money effectively – historical factors
- Shame relating to poor self esteem and confidence
- We have numerous other problems, hard to recognise or single out.
- Don't believe a Non Indigenous service can help them
- Its normalised – its a routine or way of life
- Most Aboriginal communities do not recognise gambling as an issue or concern

Barriers

Indigenous Communities

- There are others issues that Aboriginal people and governments are facing and need attention. Ie alcohol, drugs, homelessness or home ownership, physical health, mental health, cultural identity, grief and loss etc
- Lack of strategies to address the issue
- Lack education on services available and their roles
- Aboriginal people and communities are NOT yet recognising that gambling is a problem, if its not discussed or acknowledged it does not become a priority to address.



Barriers

Help Services

- At this stage there is only Gambling Help Services
- Many Gambling Help Services do not know how or are not willing to reach Aboriginal people
- Our cultural and health programs don't cover gambling
- Many lack cultural awareness and sensitivities
- Lack of flexibility in service delivery
- Communication skills and barriers, especially in remote areas



Barriers

As Individuals

- Many are afraid or have fear of sharing problems
- Stigma associated with Counselling Services
- Many are fearful to make change and speak up, especially to elders who are gambling
- Gambling is seen as an individual problem NOT a community issue

While Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remain a significantly disadvantaged, predominately living in poor socio-economic communities, gambling will remain a serious issue



What do Aboriginal people do if they want to address the problem?

- Deal with is themselves
- Seek help from family, friend or cousin
- Seek treatment



Many Aboriginal people are generally hesitant about therapy because talking is not seen as an answer to most problems



The Warruwi Gambling Help Program

- **EDUCATION** - Deliver Aboriginal Gambling Information Workshops
- **AWARENESS** - Attend or organise Community Events, ie, Community BBQs, Entertainment, Celebrity Guests , Art Competitions, Sporting Events, Cultural Events
- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** - Identify Aboriginal Safe Gambling Ambassadors in each community, work with local services.



The Warruwi Gambling Help Program

- **HELP** - To provide a free 1800 phone service for support, education, referrals and information
- **ACTION** - Facilitate further development of local community action plans
- **CULTURAL AWARENESS** – To provide cultural support, training and direction for Gambling Counselling Services

Strengthening community action and empowering communities – How?

Services

- Awareness
- Education
- Engagement
- Collaboration
- Planning
- Implementation
- Cultural Appreciation



Community

- Acknowledgment
- Recognition
- Ownership
- Engagement
- Collaboration
- Planning
- Action



- Stronger communities
- Empowered communities



Discussion & Questions



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Thank you