

# Gambling Addiction Fact Sheet

## THE FACTS

Australians spend nearly \$12 billion a year on poker machines and three quarters of people who have a serious problem with gambling are pokie players.

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- Many Australians gamble in some form at least one a year, whether it's an occasional flutter at the races, buying a lottery ticket, playing the pokies or a night out at the casino
- In 2009, 70% of Australians participated in some form of gambling
- Australians spend more than \$19 billion on gambling in 2008-09; around \$12 billion of which was spent playing the pokies
- Up to 500,000 Australians are at risk of becoming, or are, problem gamblers
- The social cost to the community of problem gambling is estimated to be at least \$4.7 billion a year
- Only around 15% of problem gamblers seek help
- 1 in 6 people who play the pokies regularly has a serious addiction
- Problem gamblers lose around \$21,000 each year; this is one third of the average Australian salary
- Some poker machines can be played at extremely high intensity – a gambler could lose more than \$1,500 in just one hour
- Young people around the 18-24 year group spend more on poker machines than any other age group
- ¾ of problem gamblers have problems with poker machines. It's even higher for women – 9 out of 10 cases poker machines are identified as the cause of problems for women

