



TOPIC

ADDRESSING PROBLEM GAMBLING

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10th GRAF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

12 - 14 MAY 2014

Protea Hotel The Ranch Resort - Polokwane

South Africa



- BACKGROUND
- HISTORY OF GAMBLING
- NATIONAL RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING PROGRAMME (NRGP)
- NRGF AND ITS WORK
- INTERGRATED RESOURCE
- TREATMENT
- PREVENTION
- TAKING RISKS WISELY
- RESEARCH
- PROPOSAL TO ADDRESS PROBLEM GAMBLING

- Problem and pathological gambling is a public health problem.
- Most people engage in gambling as a harmless leisure activity
- Yields public benefits by contributing more in taxation than other leisure industries
- Contributes to out-of-town tourism
- Strategies that combine minimising the harm caused with maximising the benefits of gambling are therefore crucial for good public policy..

- Gambling treated as immoral and largely prohibited, (Horse Racing)
- Casinos allowed to develop in homelands (Sun City resort)
- Democracy, homelands incorporated into provinces
- National legislation required to:
 - a) Regularise casinos from homelands and
 - b) Address the huge increase in illegal gambling machines South Africa.
- National Gambling Act in 1996

- 50% of SA don't gamble at all (2009)
- 47%* Recreational gamblers. Gambling is a harmless recreation, don't spend more time or money on gambling than they can afford.
- 2.5%* Gamble more they can afford and risk causing significant problems in their lives.
- 0.5% Addicted or compulsive" (psychological disorder or disease).pathological gamblers

- Started in June 2000 as a collection of in-house industry programmes
- Overseen by regulators and industry executives through a not-for-profit, Section 21 company (NPO)
- Independent chair.
- South Africa pioneered responsible gambling in the developing world,
- Unique structure to ensure collaborate between industry executives and regulators.

- 1 Research (monitoring)
- 2 Public education (awareness and prevention)
 - *advertising, collateral, events*
 - *industry-wide training*
 - *national schools programme*
3. National treatment network and 24/7 toll-free problem gambling counselling line

- Funded by voluntary contributions from the private sector which includes:
- The casino industry
- Horse racing
- Bingo
- Bookmakers
- Limited pay-out machines (LPMs)
- Contributes 0.1% of the industry's Gross Gambling Revenue (GGR)

- Free counselling line for problem gamblers and those close to them. Confidential help; 24/7.
- Counsellors are specially trained in gambling problems. They then refer clients who want this to a treatment network of 75 professionals in 53 towns
- Free psychiatric consultation and debt-counselling service, including other mental health and addiction issues.
- Family members receive voluntary counselling .



- Educating actual and potential problem gamblers about the dangers of irresponsible gambling
- Campaigns targeted at the general population and vulnerable communities including the youth and the poor
- Print, television and radio advertising, promotional and informational leaflets, brochures and newsletters,
- A key aspect of public education informs the public that free individual and confidential treatment is available around the clock and free of charge.

- A particularly innovative prevention work called ‘Taking Risks Wisely’
- Deals with all risk-taking behaviours among school kids— not just gambling –
- Provides a text-based teachers’ manual with lesson plans, interactive exercises, etc. plus full web-based back-up and a comprehensive Handbook of Responsible Gambling.
- Successfully piloted as part of the life skills orientation curriculum for Grades 7 - 12

- The objective of the Research work carried out is to understand the nature, causes and prevalence of problem gambling so as
 1. To facilitate the development of good public policy
 2. To enhance the effectiveness of prevention and treatment strategies.
- Researchers includes academics at local universities and collaborators abroad.
- (www.responsiblegambling.co.za)

- **PLAYER INFORMATION**
 - A form of entertainment but no true price of playing
 - Educate about odds and average costs of playing
- **STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE**
 - Make info available about how much player has spent e.g. loyalty members monthly statements
- **HEALTH WARNINGS**
 - Community awareness re 1)Risks and consequences of excessive gambling 2) signs of emerging problems 3) sources of assistance and advice

- **CONTROL ADVERTISING**
 - Include warning signs in advertising
- **ACCESS TO CASH AND CREDIT**
 - Restrictions on location of ATM and lower limits at venues
- **SELF EXCLUSION PROCEDURES**
 - Offer and enforce self exclusion to gamblers for a cooling off period
- **MACHINE DESIGN**
 - Players to be notified of their rand value of bets and not credits

- NRGP is widely regarded within South Africa and abroad, as being effective in minimizing the harm caused by excessive or uncontrolled gambling.
- SA gambling industry perceived as being well regulated and as trying to deliver entertainment in a socially responsible way.
- Widely acknowledged to be cost-effective.
- Need to develop more experts in gambling research and treatment.
- Increase collaboration with GRAF members



THANK YOU

Questions?