

Snapshot of the Link Between Family Violence and Gambling: Information for Local Government



Three Facts:

1. Family violence and harm from gambling are both serious, prevalent and preventable public health issues.
2. 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.
3. A strong correlation exists between electronic gaming machine (EGM) losses per adult and the rate of police callouts to family incidents.

Four Questions:

1. Does your Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and/or Council Plan address gambling harm prevention and family violence prevention?
2. Does your council have gambling, family violence or gender equity policies?
3. Are you aware of rates of EGM losses and family violence police reports in your municipality?
4. Does your council routinely consider the health impacts of violence against women and harm from gambling when designing programs, policies and plans?

“Most of the women who come to our service as an affected other [e.g. a partner or child] of a gambler have experienced family violence, particularly financial abuse.”

Anouk Ceppithomas
Senior Financial counsellor
Banyule Community Health

Five Actions:

1. Ensure the link between family violence and gambling harm is reflected in council programs, policies and plans, or develop specific policies on this issue.
2. Identify family violence as an issue to be considered in any applications for further EGMs in your area.
3. Ensure that your council becomes active in local and statewide partnerships to prevent harm from gambling.
4. Use gender disaggregated data in council reports and plans.
5. Consider joining the Alliance for Gambling Reform to advocate for change that will protect your community from EGM harm.

Women's Health In The North (WHIN) is the women's health service for Melbourne's northern metropolitan region and its work aligns with the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015–2019. WHIN aims to strengthen women's health, safety and wellbeing, with a strategic focus on preventing violence against women, sexual and reproductive rights, economic participation and environmental justice.

For further information, contact the WHIN Health Promotion team on 9484 1666 or info@whin.org.au