

PROBLEM GAMBLING ASSESSMENT

Problem gambling:

Is signified by the level of negative impact gambling has on a person's life. It results in adverse consequences for the gambler, their families and the community as a result of the gambler being unable to limit money and/or time spent on gambling.

Considerations in assessment:

There is a high level of shame and reluctance to seek help.

There is a high risk of suicide.

- » Establish rapport to encourage a trusting environment for client disclosure
- » Consider indirect questioning unless client initiates. Start with general questions to flag a potential problem, e.g. "What do you do in your free time?"
- » If you suspect that gambling is an issue consider using a validated screening tool, e.g. Lie-Bet Questionnaire Problem Gambling Severity Index

RESPONSE MANAGEMENT

High Risk

- » Conduct mental health/risk of suicide assessment (See 'Risk Assessment' card)
- » MH Triage

Quick tips:

- » Clearly case-note problem gambling
- » Monitor level of risk
- » Consider client's readiness to change
- » Consider relationship with substance use and mental health
- » Get a secondary consultation

Additional information

- » Consider referral options, e.g. Gambler's Help and/or financial counsellor

Gambler's Help: 1800 858 858

Gambler's Help Youthline: 1800 262 376

Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation:

<http://www.responsiblegambling.vic.gov.au/>

'Slots and Shots': AOD Worker Gambling Resource on Odyssey House Victoria and NCETA websites

www.vaada.org.au