

MEDIA RELEASE

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INCREASED SUPPORT FOR RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING FUND

Initiatives to prevent and reduce problem gambling will be boosted by a \$25 million investment in the NSW Budget 2018, Minister for Racing Paul Toole said today.

This will include \$14 million for Gambling Help Services including phone, online and 55 face-to-face counselling services in more than 250 locations across NSW.

A new \$1 million grants program will offer funding for a wide range of projects covering technology, research and evaluation, new treatment concepts and community awareness campaigns.

The investment comes from the Responsible Gambling Fund – financed by a levy on each NSW casino licence under the *Casino Control Act 1992*. It is part of the NSW Government's commitment to targeting problem gambling.

Mr Toole said a further \$13 million will support infrastructure grants for sport and recreation, arts and culture and emergency preparedness to benefit local communities, particularly in regional, remote and disadvantaged areas.

This funding is provided through the ClubGRANTS Category 3 program which receives a proportion of clubs' gaming machine profits.

Mr Toole said the NSW Government improved the program in 2017 by giving community organisations more chances to apply for a wider range of projects.

"A streamlined application process is cutting red tape and allowing for faster assessment of these grants," Mr Toole said.

The Budget also includes \$4.5 million for the new Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission and \$7 million for capital grants to improve safety at local racing tracks.

Mr Toole said, in total, \$41 million is being invested to ensure the greyhound industry operates to the highest possible standards of integrity and animal welfare.

MEDIA: Ashley Gardiner | 0429 063 494