

NSW Council of Churches

Policy on gambling

That the NSW Council of Churches:

- (a) recognises that for some people gambling is a dangerous and addictive activity;*
- (b) recognises the extent to which families and dependents of gamblers may be deprived of financial and emotional support and may as a result experience significant frustration, anger and loss;*
- (c) calls on State and Federal Governments to take urgent action to:*
 - i. develop sustainable alternative sources of state revenue;*
 - ii. reduce the prevalence of gambling in our communities;*
 - iii. support those for whom gambling is a problem;*
- (d) urges Christians to express support and encouragement to politicians and other public figures who oppose gambling;*
- (e) encourages churches to provide opportunities for teaching and learning on the harmful effects of gambling including its impact on the family and friends of gamblers;*
- (f) encourages Christians to learn how to refer problem gamblers to professional counsellors or support groups such as the G-line or Gamblers Anonymous;*
- (g) recommends the implementation of reasonable measures to discourage advertising and sponsorship of gambling.*

The statement above was approved on Tuesday 11 March 2008 by the NSW Council of Churches Executive following extensive consultation with Council members and with the full approval of Council.