

Listening for numbers: Gambling explained

Gambling is any activity where money (or anything of value) is put at risk on an event of uncertain outcome that relies, in part or entirely, on chance. Just over _____ of Australians gamble every week, mostly for fun and entertainment. The most popular form of gambling is lottery games.

Different types of gambling

Different types of gambling include:

- **Gaming** – where the outcome is decided largely by chance. Examples include lotteries, pokies, bingo, scratchies, casino and card games.
- **Betting or wagering** – on the outcome of a future event. Examples include horse racing, sports betting, Internet betting and TAB betting.
- **Speculation** – such as gambling on the stock market.

The odds of winning on the pokies are low

Most people gamble because they think they will win money but the odds of winning are low. For example, electronic gaming machines ('pokies') are randomly programmed so it may take _____ of individual games before the machine pays out.

According to some research, to have a _____ chance of winning on some gaming machines, a person would have to press the button _____ million times, which would take close to _____ days of around-the-clock continuous play. In ordinary playing time, this equals around _____ years. For a _____ prize, a person would have to feed around _____ into the machine.

Other forms of gambling also have low odds

According to a national inquiry into gaming, the odds of winning at other popular forms of gambling are equally low. Examples of some of the odds include:

- **Saturday Tattsлото major prize** – approximately one in _____ million
- **Powerball** – approximately one in _____
- **The Pools** – approximately one in _____

_____ of Australians have problems with gambling

Approximately _____ of Australians, or _____ people, have difficulties with gambling.

'Problem gambling' is when gambling causes harm to the individual player or their family. This harm may also extend into the community.

When gambling is out of control, a person who is experiencing difficulties may feel compelled to gamble, even when it causes them distress. In this way, problem gambling shares common ground with other addictive behaviours, such as cigarette smoking and excessive consumption of alcohol.

Gambling in Victoria

Victoria's adult population is spending more on gambling. This has been the trend since the _____ when gaming machines were introduced. Each adult is losing (on average) _____ per year compared to _____ in _____. This is the third highest expenditure of all Australian states and territories.

Just over _____ of this spending is on gaming machines. The proportion of Victoria's total takings from gambling can be broken down approximately as follows:

Authentic Listening

- **Gaming machines** – _____
- **Casino** – _____
- **Racing** – _____
- **Lottery products** – _____
- **Sports betting** – _____
- **Other** (including Keno, interactive and minor gaming) – _____.

Problem gambling in Victoria

It is estimated that Victorians account for one third of Australia's problem gamblers. The impact of gambling can have a significant effect on a problem gambler's life. These effects include:

- Spending little time with family and friends
- Difficulties at work
- Relationship breakdowns (both marital and personal)
- Turning to crime to support gambling habits
- Major financial difficulties (including bankruptcy)
- Significant mental health problems (over _____ per cent of problem gamblers suffer from depression)
- Suicidal tendencies
- High alcohol and drug consumption.

Services available

There are various organisations that can offer support, assistance and counselling for people who have problems with gambling. Depending on the service, the aim is either to control the gambling or abstain altogether. Some organisations also offer support to affected family and friends.

Where to get help

- Gambler's Help – 24-hour telephone counselling service Tel. _____, TTY _____
- Gamblers Anonymous – support group for people with a gambling problem Tel. _____ or visit their website
- Gam-Anon – support group for family and friends Tel. (03) 9898 7526 (volunteers only) or visit their website
- Crown Responsible Gaming Support Centre Tel. _____
- Australian Hotels Association – (AHA) Self Exclusion Program Tel. (03) 9654 7100 (Business hours, Mon to Fri)
- Lifeline Tel. 131 114
- Suicide Helpline Victoria Tel. 1300 651 251
- Financial and Consumer Rights Council Tel. 1800 134 139 or Tel. _____
- Kids Help Line – 24-hour telephone and online counselling service Tel. 1800 551 800 or visit their website
- Your doctor or other health professionals.

Things to remember

- Gambling is any activity where money (or anything of value) is put at risk on an event of uncertain outcome that relies, in part or entirely, on chance.
- Approximately two per cent of Australians, or _____ people, have difficulties with gambling.
- When gambling is out of control, a person who is experiencing difficulties may feel compelled to gamble, even when it causes them distress.
- There are various organisations that can offer support, assistance and counselling for people who have problems with gambling.