

**Friday 1 September 2006**  
**[Parliamentary Estimates: General Purpose Standing Committee No 3]**

**Minister for Gaming and Racing**

**QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE AT THE HEARING**

**1 The Hon Melinda Pavey asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon Grant McBride MP –**

What allocations have been made, by recipient, amount and purpose, from the Casino Community Benefit Fund [now known as the *Responsible Gambling Fund*] during the period 01 July 2005 to 31 August 2006?

**ANSWER**

I am advised by the NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing of the following allocations from the Responsible Gambling Fund:

Organisation	Grant \$ ( <i>ex-GST-pa</i> )	Purpose
<b>Central Coast</b>		
Peninsula Community Centre	\$142,791	A treatment, education and referral service to minimise the harm associated with problem gambling amongst the Central Coast community
Mission Australia - Wyong	\$107,555	A multifaceted, well established and respected programme providing education and treatment for problem gamblers, their friends, family and relatives and addressing flow on effects for families
UnitingCare Unifam Counselling and Mediation - East Gosford	\$82,690	To provide treatment services for problem gamblers and their families
<b>New England/North West</b>		
Anglican Counselling Service - Tamworth	\$78,567	To provide child/adolescent, family, individual and couple counselling services, community education support services and family mediation to problem gamblers and their families
Centacare New England North West - West Tamworth	\$71,711	To provide a variety of assessment strategies and therapeutic interventions including self help, group support, counselling and clinical services to address personal, interpersonal, physical and mental health, financial, vocational and psychological consequences of problem gambling
<b>South East NSW</b>		
Anglicare Youth and Family Services – Goulburn	155,126	To prevent the flow-on effects of gambling through early identification and intervention services; to decrease existing flow-on effects through counselling, support, advocacy and referral services; and to decrease gambling dependency
<b>Western NSW</b>		
Lifeline Central West - Bathurst	\$194,350	To provide clinical and financial counselling services for gamblers and/or their families; conduct education workshops; and conduct workshops on flow-on effects resulting from excessive gambling to families and communities
Lifeline Central West - Dubbo	\$114,595	To provide clinical and financial counselling services for gamblers and/or their families and conduct education workshops to community groups
Lifeline Broken Hill	\$97,054	To provide ongoing counselling education and support services for problem gamblers, their families, and other people affected by problem gambling
<b>Illawarra</b>		
Mission Australia (Illawarra Gambling Service)	\$252,585	To provide clinical and financial services for problem gamblers and their families
Illawarra Health Service - Ulladulla, Nowra and Warrawong	\$159,094	To provide a counselling and treatment service for problem gamblers and their families/friends
University of Sydney - Southern Highlands	\$49,448	To establish a problem gambling counselling service for problem gamblers and significant others, conducting preventative seminars in clubs, and raise gambling awareness in the community
<b>North Coast</b>		
Lifeline Northern Rivers - Lismore	\$70,683	To provide counselling and rehabilitation services for problem gamblers and their families/friends
Lifeline North Coast - Coffs Harbour	\$110,513	To provide community education and counselling programs for problem gamblers and their families/friends

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Grant \$ (ex-GST-pa)</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Mission Australia (North Coast Gambling Service) - Taree	\$111,657	To provide a counselling service for problem gamblers, and community education and awareness of the adverse effects of gambling
The Buttery (Northern Rivers Gambling Service) - Bangalow	\$119,000	To provide an integrated counselling and rehabilitation service for problem gamblers and their families
<b>Riverina/Murray</b>		
Mission Australia Riverina - Wagga Wagga	\$200,570	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others
St David's Uniting Care - Albury	\$152,000	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others
Wagga Wagga Family Support Service Inc	\$155,000	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others
<b>Hunter</b>		
Cessnock Family Support Service	\$62,818	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others
Mission Australia Great Lakes - Lambton	\$244,968	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others
Newcastle City Mission	\$155,000	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others
Woodrising Neighbourhood Centre - Woodrising	\$55,871	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others
<b>Western Sydney</b>		
Auburn Asian Welfare Centre	\$190,000	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others
Centacare Parramatta	\$75,000	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others
Lifeline Western Sydney - Parramatta	\$170,000	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others
Sydney West Area Health Service - Mt Druitt	\$85,077	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others
University of Sydney - Auburn	\$243,604	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others; and take part in a controlled trial of the effectiveness of gambling treatments
Wesley Gambling Counselling Service - Penrith	\$210,000	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others
<b>South West Sydney</b>		
Arab Council Australia Inc - Bankstown	\$110,000	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others
Lifeline Macarthur - Narellan	\$60,000	To provide support services to problem gamblers and significant others
Sydney South West Area Health Service – Liverpool	\$274,714	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others
The Salvation Army - Fairfield	\$77,000	1 full-time financial counsellor to provide support services to problem gamblers and significant others
University of Sydney - Camden	\$247,562	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others, and take part in a controlled trial of the effectiveness of gambling treatments
Vietnamese Community in Australia (NSW Chapter)	\$75,000	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others
<b>Coastal Sydney</b>		
Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Centre	\$303,650	Trial a model service provision for Aboriginal people primarily at the prevention and early intervention stages, and develop measures to improve the detection, referral and support for Aboriginal people with gambling problems
Christian Community Aid Service - Ryde	\$48,000	To lessen the negative impact of problem gambling through the provision of a financial counselling and support service for problem gamblers and their families
Greek Welfare Centre - Newtown	\$85,000	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others
Hopetstreet Urban Compassion - Darlinghurst	\$150,000	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others
Mission Australia - Canterbury	\$230,000	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others
Northern Sydney Area Health Drug and Alcohol Services - Hornsby	\$210,000	To provide psychiatric services for problem gamblers and significant others with or without substance abuse and/or mental health problems
St Vincent's Hospital - Darlinghurst	\$375,000	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others
Southern Sydney Women's Therapy Centre – Campsie	\$95,000	Address problem gambling issues for women through the provision of counselling, group support and information/training

Organisation	Grant \$ ( <i>ex-GST-pa</i> )	Purpose
University of Sydney - Darlington	\$390,000	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others; and take part in a controlled trial of the effectiveness of gambling treatments
Waverley Action for Youth Services - Bondi	\$54,944	To provide counselling services, information and referral services, and education programs specifically addressing gambling behaviours among young people and their families
Wesley Gambling Counselling Service – Sutherland	\$102,000	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others
Wesley Gambling Counselling Service - Surry Hills	\$390,000	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others
<b>State-wide Services (2005/2006)</b>		
Life Activities	\$140,102	To provide gambling support and counselling and treatment services to individuals with an intellectual disability, acquired brain injury and/or mental illness
Sydney West Area Health Service (Multicultural Problem Gambling Service)	\$550,525	To provide a multicultural gambling counselling service for New South Wales
Wesley Mission - Problem Gambling Legal Service	\$196,936	To provide a specialist legal assistance, case work and court representation for consumers with gambling related legal problems
Wesley Problem Gambling Service (Training Project)	\$196,936	To provide counsellor training and resourcing program
University of Sydney (Training Project)	\$32,449	To facilitate training of problem gambling counsellors in New South Wales
G-Line (NSW)	\$657,506	Telephone crisis counselling, information and referral service
<b>State-wide Services (2006/2007)</b>		
Ability Options	\$140,000	To provide support and information to funded problem gambling treatment and support services which have clients with a disability
Association of Children's Welfare Agencies for The Centre for Community Welfare Training	\$133,407	To provide Co-ordination and provision of a specialist training service for RGF Funded workers in the problem gambling treatment and support services sector in NSW
Sydney West Area Health Service (Multicultural Problem Gambling Service)	\$500,000	To provide a specialist gambling counselling and information service for problem gamblers, their families and significant others, from a non-English speaking background
Uniting Church Property Trust (NSW) for Wesley Mission Sydney & Wesley Counselling Services	\$200,000	To provide legal advice, information, and support to problem gamblers, families and others, and relevant service providers such as RGF-funded problem gambling services
<b>Research</b>		
ACNielsen	\$131,000	To review the number of signs and the messages contained in the entire range of responsible gambling advertisements, signs, brochures, tickets and proposed contact cards to ensure these materials operate effectively and consistently as a package for the community
ACNielsen	\$136,360	To conduct a prevalence (population) study into problem gambling to assess, and monitor over time, the extent of problem gambling, its geographical spread and the profile of problem gamblers in NSW
University of Sydney	\$53,427	To conduct a survey of problem gamblers receiving treatment in NSW
University of Sydney	\$59,696	To conduct a research project piloting a follow up process for assessing treatment effectiveness in a sample of RGF funded services

## 2 The Hon Melinda Pavey asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon Grant McBride MP –

How much money has been spent on the process [of rewriting the Liquor Act] to this point [31 August 2006]?

### ANSWER

I advise that the project of developing proposals for the rewrite of the Liquor Act has been achieved within the normal budgetary constraints of the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing. No extraordinary costs or resources – including consultants, special committees or delegations - have been necessary.

I am advised about \$600 was spent on printing the exposure draft of the Liquor Bill 2005 for distribution to stakeholders.

**3 The Hon Melinda Pavey asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon Grant McBride MP –**

What has been the cost of administration over the past 12 months ended 30 June 2006 compared to the previous 12 months for Racing NSW, Greyhound Racing NSW, Harness Racing NSW and the Greyhound and Harness Racing Control Authority?

**ANSWER**

I am informed by the relevant bodies that the net cost of administration, ie the funding shortfall picked up by the respective racing industries, for the financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06 were:

	2004-05	2005-06
Racing NSW	\$8,293,000	\$8,118,085
Harness Racing NSW	\$647,863	\$649,000
Greyhound Racing NSW	\$1,729,000	\$1,660,000
Greyhound & Harness Racing Regulatory Authority	\$5,398,013	\$5,066,000

In respect of 2005-06, the amounts are subject to final audit.

**4 The Hon Melinda Pavey asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon Grant McBride MP –**

What has been the overall prize money in the thoroughbred racing industry, the greyhound racing industry, and the harness racing industry in NSW in each year ended 30 June 2004, 2005 and 2006?

**ANSWER**

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Thoroughbred racing	\$96.08m	\$99.8m	\$102.9m
Harness racing	\$19.6m	\$21.4m	\$21.2m
Greyhound racing	\$14.5m	\$15.5m	\$15.5m

**5 The Hon Michael Gallagher asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon Grant McBride-**

Moving on to water, what written representations have you made to Ministers about the Central Coast water crisis?

**ANSWER**

From the outset, I would like to point out that unlike Sydney and the Hunter, the water supply system on the Central Coast is owned and operated by Gosford and Wyong Councils through the Gosford-Wyong Joint Water Authority.

The Central Coast is experiencing the worst drought on record which has impacted severely on the water supply for the region. With supply levels at only around 16% the whole of the Central Coast community are aware of this important issue.

Last year I was involved in discussions with Minister Sartor – who suggested a change in structure for the joint water authority. Each council had a different preferred position.

As water levels continued to drop during the first half of this year – I made contact with both Minister Campbell and the Premier.

Following my discussions, the Premier visited the Central Coast and made an offer to the Council's Joint Water Authority outlining a four point plan of assistance from the State Government (including the state owned Hunter Water). I outlined these initiatives during the recent Budget estimates hearing in my introductory remarks.

This plan included:

- new funding of \$2.5 million to bring forward the construction of a water filtration plant on the Williams river in the Hunter Valley to supplement the Central Coast Water Supply.
- temporary easing of restrictions to allow the councils to take an additional 4 million litres of water each day from Ourimbah Creek.
- an offer to extend the highly successful Water Savings Fund to include the Central Coast offering rebates to consumers using water efficient washing machines and rain water tanks.
- reaffirming the State Government's commitment of \$7.5m to the \$30 million Hunter connection pipeline to the Central Coast which will supply the Central Coast with additional water.

I am very conscious of the water situation on the Central Coast and the State Government continues to provide ongoing assistance and advice through government agencies to the benefit of the Councils' Joint Water Authority.

Around the time of the September regional Cabinet visit to the Central Coast, Minister Campbell has also committed to introduce new legislation for the establishment of a local water corporation – owned and operated by the two local councils.

Whilst an important step forward, this will not alone solve the current water crisis, however it will ensure the efficient, improved and effective delivery of water supply, sewerage and drainage services in the longer term.

The State Government has also identified that water supply is an issue when it comes to planning.

The recent release of the Draft Central Coast Regional Strategy proposes a reduced population growth rate until the issue of a secure water supply is adequately addressed.

The NSW Government is actively consulting with both Gosford and Wyong Councils to identify additional ways in which the State Government can assist.

Indeed I've met on numerous occasions with Mayors, Councillors, Council staff, environmental groups, business groups and the wider community – where the issue of water has been discussed.

I have also raised the Central Coast Water Crisis directly in Cabinet and sought the Government's support to assist the Coast's current situation.

I have made at least ten direct written representations directly to the Water Utilities Minister, but on top of that there are letters to other Ministers, constituents and community groups on the issue of water. My office has also liaised closely with both Councils, State Agencies and Ministers offices on the issue of Water on the Central Coast

By way of contrast I have been advised that neither the Shadow Minister Chris Hartcher or Upper House MLC Michael Gallacher have written or met with the NSW Water Utilities Minister on the issue of Water on the Central Coast.

I am pleased that the NSW Government has responded in a positive way. Real progress is being made to help improve the situation on the Central Coast.

I reiterate the Premiers commitment that we are not going to leave the residents of the Central Coast in the lurch when it comes to water. We will continue to assist Gosford and Wyong councils where possible to secure the water supply on the Central Coast.

**6. The Hon Michael Gallagher asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon Grant McBride-**

How many Ministerial meetings have you held in relation to Central Coast water?

**ANSWER**

Refer to question 5

**7 The Hon Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon Grant McBride MP –**

Has that [*Bookmakers, including the TAB, can use the Internet but not until 30 minutes before the first race of the day - with the exception of Northern Territory corporate bookmakers, who do not have the same restrictions*] cost the New South Wales racing industry money, and if so, how much?

**ANSWER**

To clarify the position in NSW, authorised bookmakers may accept bets over the Internet on feature racing events up until 30 minutes before the first race of the relevant race day.

**8 The Hon Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon Grant McBride MP –**

Why has there been no prosecutions of people for inclusion into gaming in NSW via the Internet? [repeated as ... *Why has there not been any prosecutions for people coming into New South Wales via the Internet? Is it not prohibited for people to do that?*]

**ANSWER**

The use of the internet for gaming is primarily a matter for the Commonwealth. These issues are of concern to the NSW Government and the NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing will co-operate with Federal authorities to monitor and act on these issues.

**9 Ms Lee Rhiannon asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon Grant McBride MP –**

How many venues does the Panthers [Panthers Rugby League Club Limited] club have across New South Wales?

**ANSWER**

I am advised Penrith Rugby League Club Limited has 14 premises across New South Wales.