



**BANYULE**  
Community Health

## The facts on problem gambling

- 2.1% Australian adults are problem gamblers
- 130,000 have severe problems
- 160,000 have moderate problems
- 15% of regular gamblers spend \$3.5 billion p.a.
- Problem gamblers lose \$12,000 p.a compared with \$650 for other gamblers (ABS data \$14,000 & \$901)
- Prevalence for problem gamblers is related to the degree of accessibility of gambling particularly gaming machines
- 1 in 10 problem gamblers receiving counselling reported that gambling led to violent incidents

### **Impact – “escalating severity”**

- 60% with at least moderate gambling problems had suffered depression.
- 9% (and 60% of those in counselling) report that they have seriously thought about suicide.
- one in two problem gamblers have borrowed money, one in five borrowed without paying it back.
- on average, around 7 other people are adversely affected by a severe problem gambler's behaviour.