



Greg Piper, MP
Member for Lake Macquarie



Media Release

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FUNDING TO COUNSEL PROBLEM GAMBLERS

Greg Piper, Member for Lake Macquarie, today congratulated Woodrising Neighbourhood centre for receiving state funding to assist problem gamblers.

The centre will be given \$260,000 over four years to provide counselling and support services to problem gamblers and those close to them. The funding is provided by the Department of Gaming and Racing's Responsible Gambling Fund.

The project, known as the Lake Macquarie Financial and Gambling Counselling Service, will give free confidential advice to anyone who needs help.

"Gambling can get out of hand and ruin people's lives," Mr Piper said. "It's great to see a group with compassion being funded to help problem gamblers."

"I'd like to thank Graham West, Minister for Gaming and Racing, for funding this service in Lake Macquarie" Mr Piper said. "Anyone who wants to change their gambling habits should ask for help by phoning 4950 5108."

Judy Wiersma, the service's counsellor, said "We can help people understand and control their gambling and start managing their finances. If gambling is costing more than you can afford, or if you find it hard to stop, this service can make things easier for you."