



## Encouraging Communities to Go Gambling-Free

South Gippsland Shire Council in partnership with the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation and Gambler's Help has a number of events arranged for February and beyond for the Community Champions Go Gambling-Free project.

The project uses local community volunteer champions to develop a whole of population approach to reduce harm from gambling.

Initially the project is being rolled out across Leongatha and Mirboo North with further scope for other towns in South Gippsland.

Events marked so far include shift-worker champions' lunches, mental health first aid for gambling workshops and Institute of Games sessions. The Institute of Games works with parents, schools and students to help students moderate their gaming and identify risks associated with video games.

South Gippsland Shire Council's Project Support Worker Heather Butler was pleased to help bring this support to community members.

"We have had a significant amount of interest in the Community Champions Go Gambling-Free project and I hope that our future events bring more awareness to gambling harm. By providing help to those who experience gambling harm and building skills in the communities to support them, we're ensuring we make a difference," said Ms Butler.

Individuals wanting more information on upcoming events for the Community Champions Go Gambling-Free project can visit [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/gamblingfree](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/gamblingfree).

Those also wanting to be involved in the overall project can contact Council's Social Planning team on 5662 9200.

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