



**State Minister's Message  
Issue 41 (18 November, 2009)**

A regular update from the Office of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, The Hon. Michael Atkinson M.P.

**Have You Ever Had An Issue With Gambling?**

Minister Atkinson encourages veterans who believe they may have an issue with problem gambling to seek the assistance of Gambling Help Services.

Veterans SA is working in partnership with the Office for Problem Gambling (Department for Families and Communities) and Ex-Service Organisations to help identify and support veterans with a gambling problem to access Gambling Help Services.

There has been research to suggest that veterans receiving treatment for P.T.S.D. are more likely to be afflicted by problem gambling issues than the general Australian community. Whatever the case may be, if you know someone currently experiencing, or at risk of developing problem gambling issues, there is help available.

South Australia has 17 free, confidential Gambling Help Services located across the State that are available to assist people with concerns about their gambling behaviour, as well providing assistance to the families and friends of problem gamblers. Counselling is provided over the telephone and in person and specific financial counselling is also available. Languages other than English are spoken at some services and interpreter assistance can be arranged.

The Gambling Helpline (1800 060 757) is a free 24-hour counselling, information and referral service to assist people in South Australia with gambling related problems, or those affected by the gambling of others - including family members. The Gambling Helpline is funded by the Gamblers Rehabilitation Fund, a joint initiative of the Australian Hotels Association (SA Branch), Clubs SA, SkyCity and the Government of South Australia.

For more information about Gambling Help Services please contact Veterans SA on 08) 8207 1723 or go to [www.problemgambling.sa.gov.au](http://www.problemgambling.sa.gov.au)