



# Budget 2009-10

# Investing in Jobs

## GAMING AND RACING

### Targeting alcohol hotspots and problem gambling

The NSW Government will expand the crackdown on liquor law abuse under a \$16 million investment targeting alcohol hotspots and supporting safer communities.

Nearly \$16 million has been confirmed in the 2009-10 Budget to continue implementation of strict new liquor laws, and provide quality counselling services for problem gamblers, Gaming and Racing Minister Kevin Greene said.

Mr Greene said \$3.6 million of this Budget allocation would allow the NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing (OLGR) to continue its expanded program of liquor law enforcement operations and education initiatives in alcohol hotspots.

“The funding is the second instalment of a \$10.8 million commitment over three years to implement the new Liquor Act and reduce alcohol-related anti-social behaviour and violence

“Last year’s funding increase allowed OLGR to employ 25 new liquor inspectors, bolstering its ranks to 65 frontline officers,” Mr Greene said.

“These inspectors work hand in hand with NSW Police to secure compliance with our strict new liquor laws with covert operations in licensed venues as well as audits and workshops to assist licensees and their staff.

“The State’s network of 145 Liquor Accords will continue to be a priority. OLGR is increasing support and resources for accords to help build their capacity to address local alcohol problems.”

Mr Greene said \$12.2 million of this year’s Budget allocation would go into the Government’s Responsible Gambling Fund for high-quality counselling services, important research, and education and awareness initiatives.

“The Rees Government is investing a record \$10.9 million in its network of *Gambling Help* problem gambling counselling and support services in 2009-10,” Mr Greene said.

“The Government funds over 40 free problem gambling counselling services that operate at more than 200 locations across the State, a 24-hour telephone counselling service, and a range of self-help and support materials on the internet.

“Included in this year’s Budget allocation is a 4 per cent funding increase for 38 frontline problem gambling counselling services to help them meet increased operating and staff costs.

“Also included is a \$362,000 grant to help develop a new national online problem gambling counselling service which is expected to be launched later this year.

“We will also launch the second phase of our \$1.8 million Statewide *Gambling Hangover* awareness campaign later this year to educate young men about the risks of gambling and promote our free help services.”

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