

## **Media Release**

**3 March 2006**

### **AGC Calls for Youth Gambling Awareness**

We need to build gambling awareness into school curriculum, Cheryl Vardon, CEO of the Australian Gaming Council said today.

Overseas research suggests young people with gambling problems are overly represented as a group compared to adult problem gamblers and are at greater risk of maintaining these problems when they get older. "Gambling with family and friends may be viewed as harmless, but like with any activity, the community needs to be aware of the risks and potential consequences".

"Young people, when they leave school have a reasonable knowledge about driving, responsible drinking and safe sex" Ms Vardon said, "but as soon as they hit 18 they can enter a gambling venue and have no understanding of odds or chances of winning or unrealistic expectations of winning".

The AGC views problem gambling as an important public health issue that should be addressed not only through harm minimisation strategies but via prevention. "We are seeking to build gambling awareness into school curriculum and education programs to build general resilience", Ms Vardon said. "Let's bring this knowledge into the mainstream and prepare our young people for the future so that they can make informed decisions."