

ANNUAL REPORT 2009/2010



Problem Gambling know the line.sg \$\square\$1800-6-668-668

■ Pathological Problem Gambling Help Resources

National Addictions Buangkok Green Medical Park, Tel: 1800-6668-668 10 Buangkok View Singapore 539747 Management Service (NAMS), www.nams.org.sg Institute of Mental Health NAMS Specialist Outpatient Clinic C: Basement, Block 9 Tanjong Pagar Family Blk 18 Jalan Membina Tel: 6270-6711, Fax: 6270-9663 Service Centre #04-01, Singapore 164018 www.thkms.org.sg (Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society) tpfsc@thkms.org.sg **Christian Care Services** No. 1 Lorong 23 Geylang, Blk 7 Tel: 6440-8349 / 6440-8362 Singapore Singapore 388352 Fax: 6440-8027 www.care-centre.org enquiry@care-centre.org MCYC Community Services Blk 106 Bukit Batok Central Tel: 6562-2211, Fax: 6569-8038 Society #01-217, Singapore 650106 www.mcyc.sg admin@mcyc.sg The Samaritans of Singapore Blk 10 Cantonment Close Tel: 1800-221-4444, Fax: 6220-7758 #01-01, Singapore 080010 www.samaritans.org.sg pat@samaritians.org.sg Punggol 17th Ave Tel: 1800-STOP-NOW (1800-7867-669) Ray of Hope 207J www.care-centre.sg Singapore 65119 www.care-centre.sg/RayOfHope 8 New Industrial Road #04-04 Tel: 6547-1011, Fax: 6547-1011 One Hope Centre LHK 3 Building, Singapore 536200 www.onehopecentre.org help@onehopecentre.org 620 Tiong Bahru Road Tel: 6471-5346, Fax: 6294-6552 We Care Community Services Singapore 158789 www.wecare.org.sg admin@wecare.org.sg Family Service Centres There are 36 Family Service Centres Tel: 1800-838-0100 located across Singapore. (Monday to Friday: 9am - 5.30pm) Please refer to their website for http://app1.mcys.gov.sg more information.

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The National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) was appointed in August 2005 by the Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS) as part of Singapore's national framework to address problem gambling.

Our Organisation

The NCPG comprises 20 members with notable expertise in public communications, psychiatry and psychology, legal, social services, counselling, rehabilitative as well as religious services. The Council's main roles are:

- To provide advice and feedback to the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS) on public education programmes to promote public awareness on problem gambling.
- To decide on funding applications for preventive and rehabilitative programmes.
- To assess and advise the Government on the effectiveness of treatment, counselling and rehabilitative programmes.
- To decide on the applications for exclusion of persons from casinos.

The Council has identified key areas of focus and formed 7 sub-committees:

- Sub-committee on Exclusion
- Sub-committee on Public Communications and Public Consultation
- Sub-committee on Public Education
- Sub-committee on Responsible Gambling
- Sub-committee on Research
- · Sub-committee on Service Delivery
- · Sub-committee on Youth

MCYS provides secretariat support to the Council and its various sub-committees.

Our Mission

Working with the community to reduce the impact of problem gambling on individuals, families and society.







The gambling landscape in Singapore saw a significant change this year with the opening of the casinos at Resorts World Sentosa and Marina Bay Sands. In anticipation of this, the Council implemented its casino exclusion orders and launched its "Know The Line" campaign.

In April 2009, in exercise of our statutory powers under Part X of the Casino Control Act, the Council introduced Family Exclusion Orders. Later, in December 2009, we implemented voluntary Self-Exclusion as well as Third-Party Exclusion that barred undischarged bankrupts and recipients of Public Assistance and Special Grants from the casinos. For the year under consideration, we excluded more than 30,000 persons from the casinos.

The Council launched the "Know The Line" campaign last November to remind Singapore residents not to cross the line to problem gambling. Apart from carrying the campaign

message on television and in the newspapers, extensive ground outreach initiatives were carried out.

We intensified our mass media and ground outreach during the Lunar New Year and World Cup season. We also collaborated with the temples to promote the "Know The Line" message to heartlanders at the traditional Getai during the lunar seventh month. NCPG has also garnered support from 13 companies and organisations in our inaugural Corporate & Community Partnership Programme to spread the "Know The Line" message. Collectively, we have reached out to 1.2 million Singapore residents through our ground initiatives. The Council would like to express its heartfelt appreciation to our partners and supporters.

NCPG has been working with the National Addictions Management Service and the Tanjong Pagar

Family Service Centre to improve the help and counseling services available to problem gamblers and their families. I am especially heartened by recovering problem gamblers who have stepped forward to share their stories of personal struggle and triumph on our website (www.ncpg.org.sg). They are indeed inspiring testimonies to show that individuals with the support of their families can turn over a new leaf. The Council encourages all those who need help with their gambling problems to call our helpline at 1800-6-668-668.

Looking ahead, the Council hopes to have the continued support of the public and all our partners. Together, we can help Singapore to effectively address problem gambling.

COUNCIL CHAIRPERSONS

COUNCIL MEMBERS



Chairman Mr Lim Hock San President & CEO,



Dr. Ang Beng Choo Advisor, Brahm Education Centre



Chairperson, Public Communications & Public Consultation Sub-committee Mr Kwek Leng Joo Managing Director, City Developments Lir



Chairperson, Responsible Gambling Sub-committee Mr Tan Kian Hoon Chairman, National Crime Prevention Counc

Co-Chairperson,

Youth Sub-committee

Ms Debra Soon



Chairperson. Public Education Sub-committee Ms Lim Sau Hoong



Mr S. Rajendran Chairman, Hindu Endowments Board



A/P Long Foo Yee, Fred Adjunct Associate Professor, Division of Psychology, College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University



Mrs Mildred Tan Managing Director, Business Advisory Services, Ernst & Young Associates Pte Ltd



Co-Chairperson, Youth Sub-committee Mr Joachim Lee Executive Director,
Tampines Family Service Centre



Chairperson, Research Sub-committee Prof. David Chan



Dr Ang Yong Guan *Psychiatrist*, Ang Yong Guan Psychiatry



Dr Lim Yun Chin Consultant Psychiatrist, Raffles Medical Group, Raffles Hospital



Chairperson, Exclusions Sub-committee Mr Goh Joon Seng Consultant, Lee & Lee Advocates & Solicitors

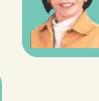


Chairperson, Service Delivery Sub-committee Dr Sudha Nair Assistant Prof. Dept of Social Work, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences,



Co-Chairperson, Responsible Gambling Sub-committee Dr Bibi Jan Mohd Ayyub Past President, Singapore Malay Teachers' Unic





Ms Grace Ng Wun Har Deputy Director, Guidance Branch, Education Programme Division, Ministry of Education



Mr Tan Thiam Lye Chairman, Taoist Federation Singapore



Ven. Seck Kwang Phing Secretary-General, Singapore Buddhist Federation

SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Mr Robert Tan

Partner,

Tangible Pte Ltd



Mr Ricky Sim Managing Director, Chesterton International Property Consultants Pte Ltd



Miss Ooi Hui Mei Director (Corporate Communications Division), People's Association

RESOURCE PERSONS



Mr Suresh Anantha Manager, Training & Planning, National Addictions Management Service, Institute of Mental Health



Mr Tan Kah Wee Director, Operations, Centre for Enabled Living Ltd



NCPG SECRETARIAT STAFF

Ms Ong Toon Hui	Director-General	Ms Rose Gay	Secretariat
Ms Charlotte Beck	Director	Mr Poo Toon Jui	Secretariat
Ms Melissa Tan	First Secretary	Ms Gillian Poh	Secretariat
Ms Amy Ting	Second Secretary	Ms Ho Ser Hian	Secretariat
Ms Daphne Soo	Assistant Secretary	Ms Katherine Tan	Secretariat
Mr Timothy Pak	Manager	Ms Grace Soh	Secretariat
Mr Chung Sang Pok	Manager	Ms Eileen Peh	Assistant to Secretariat
Mr Simon Ng	Manager	Ms Loo Mei Chern	Assistant to Secretariat
Mr Tiong Ying Jun	Secretariat	Mr Wilson Tan	Assistant to Secretariat
Mr Renson Seow	Secretariat	Ms Tan Mei Shi Michelle	Assistant to Secretariat
Ms Ng Su Lin	Secretariat	Ms Evelyn Toh	Assistant to Secretariat
Ms Sarah Anne Teo	Secretariat	Ms Jane Yeo	Assistant to Secretariat

SEPTEMBER

 Community outreach initiative through Getai performances during the lunar seventh month

NOVEMBER

- Launch of "Know The Line" Campaign
- Launch of Casino Self-Exclusion

DECEMBER

• Launch of Third-Party Exclusion



Audience at Getai performance holding a "Know The Line" helpline fan.



"World Cup No Penalty" Campaign print advertisement.







"Know The Line" yellow card

Mr Kwek Leng Joo (left) receiving a coporate partnership pledge.

2010

JANUARY

• Social Safeguards Media Roundtable

FEBRUARY

- Engagement with Resorts World Sentosa on Implementation of Social Safeguards
- "Know The Line" outreach for Chinese New Year

APRIL

• Problem Gambling Forum with National Addictions Management Service

JUNE

• Launch of "World Cup No Penalty" Campaign

JULY

• Launch of Corporate and Community Partnership Programme





Know The Line Campaign

he launch of NCPG's "Know The Line" Campaign marks a significant milestone in the integration of the Council's public education efforts under a single banner. "Know The Line" informs the public of the dividing line between social and problem gambling. It aims to promote self-appraisal of one's gambling habit and to encourage help-seeking.

The campaign was first rolled out in November 2009 with television, print and outdoor advertising to promote the "Know The Line" message. With bus shelter posters and wholly-wrapped NCPG buses ploughing strategic locations, print advertisements in key newspapers and insertions during prime television-viewing times, the campaign was supported by a comprehensive media plan to maximise the exposure of the "Know The Line" message.

Supplementing the main campaign, NCPG intensified its outreach initiatives during the two peak periods of the year - Chinese New Year and the World Cup season, when gambling activities usually heighten. With the festive celebrations ongoing, NCPG aligned its messages effectively to remind the public that they could enjoy themselves while exercising self restraint in gambling.

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During the Chinese New Year season, NCPG increased the penetration of its messaging to working adults through radio talk show discussions on gambling issues on Class 95FM and Gold 90.5FM radio stations and strategic advertisement placements on broadcast and print media. The light-hearted radio discussions enabled listeners to explore and understand problem gambling from various perspectives. The advertisements across various media platforms further ensured a consistent flow of messages during the Chinese New Year period, encouraging people to be responsible while having fun.

Similarly, during the World Cup Season in the middle of the year, NCPG reminded soccer fans of the perils and



"Know The Line" Campaian

stiff penalties of problem gambling with the launch of its "World Cup No Penalty" campaign.

One of the highlights of this campaign was the "Know The Line" Cheer Squad who performed at selected high-traffic mall locations such as City Square, Marina Sauare and *SCAPE, servina as an upbeat yet subtle reminder of such penalties against irresponsible football

NCPG's "World Cup No Penalty" campaign also went online to reach out to youth and World Cup fans at large. The interactive campaign focused on creating a call to action for the public to be a part of this cause. This message reached out to youths through social media platforms. Leveraging on the popularity of Facebook, an online game application, "NCPG World Cup Game", was developed and tailored to spread the "Know The Line" message. NCPG also joined efforts with 11 community centres that screened World Cup live matches to distribute "Know The Line" collaterals to the public. On the schools front, NCPG continued



Ms Charlotte Beck and Mr Kwek Leng

to spread the "Know The Line" message to tertiary students. Following the success of Project "Play-It-Right I" in 2009, NCPG launched Project "Play-It-Right II" in 2010 to reach out to more students in higher-learning institutions including universities and polytechnics. Learning from "Play-It-Right I", more cause champions were recruited and trained in the second instalment to ensure that every cause champion had the knowledge to spread the messages on the dangers of gambling to their

Apart from cause champion recruitment

held to reach out to university and polytechnic students to spread NCPG's messages. To further engage tech-savvy youths, a blog (www.knowtheline.blogspot.com) was created by one of the cause champions to post the success of the project and to continue to spread NCPG's cause

and training, road shows were also

Together, the "Play-It-Right" recruitment exercise and school road shows reached 32,500 youths across these tertiary institutions.

NCPG has been engaging corporate and community partners to support the "Know The Line" movement as part of their corporate social responsibility efforts. A total of 13 organisations across different industries and sectors came forward to become inaugural partners of the NCPG Corporate & Community Partnership Programme to help spread the "Know The Line" message.

The partners include National Environment Agency, People's Association (PA), community organisations such as YAH! College, sports associations such as Football Association of Singapore and Singapore Sports Council, corporate organisations such as 888 Plaza Coffeeshop Pte Ltd, K Box Entertainment Group Pte Ltd, K Pool Snookerium Pte Ltd, Koufu Pte Ltd, Polar Puffs & Cakes Pte Ltd, PSC Corporation Ltd, and transport companies like Comfort DelGro and Premier Taxis.

Through these joint efforts with corporate and community partners, NCPG has successfully reached out to 1.2 million Singaporeans in the past year.



Casino Exclusion Measures

NCPG has successfully implemented casino exclusion measures as social safeguards against problem gambling.

Since the launch of casino Family Exclusion in April 2009 till 30 September 2010, NCPG has issued 194 such orders. The casino Family Exclusion empowers families that are adversely affected by problem gambling to exclude family members from the casinos.

On 26 November 2009, NCPG launched the casino Self-Exclusion to empower individuals to exclude themselves from casinos if they are prone to problem gambling. As of 30 September 2010, 2,525 applications have been received.

Third-Party Exclusion, the final instalment of the casino exclusion measures, was launched on 16 December 2009 to protect the financially vulnerable. Undischarged bankrupts and recipients of Public Assistance and Special Grant would be automatically excluded from the casinos. As of 31 August 2010, about 28,000 people have been excluded under Third-Party Exclusion.

To date, more than 30,000 people in total have been barred under casino exclusions. NCPG will continue to ensure

Responsible gambling messages placed at non-casino gaming operations.



the smooth implementation of the casino exclusion measures while concurrently providing the necessary support to problem gamblers and their families.

Implementing
Responsible
Gambling
Measures with
Operators

NCPG has actively engaged both the Resorts World Sentosa and Marina Bay Sands casinos, prior to their opening (in February and April 2010 respectively) to put in place responsible gambling measures, and provide help and resources to all casino patrons. Both casinos have

responded by placing responsible gambling messages, implementing a pre-commitment limit programme and staff training programmes.

For non-casino gaming operators, NCPG also worked with Singapore Pools and Singapore Turf Club (STC) to implement more safeguards for the lottery and horse racing punter. To facilitate easier application for exclusion from tele-betting accounts, NCPG has placed self-exclusion forms on their websites for greater accessibility. The two operators also cooperated with NCPG to allow family members who have received NCPG Family Exclusion Orders to apply for tele-betting account exclusion against the excluded person(s) by approaching Singapore Pools and STC directly.

NCPG Helpline – Help is just a phone call away

The national problem gambling helpline (1800-6-668-668) provides the first point of contact for problem gamblers and their family members seeking information and help. Callers to the helpline will be provided with information on problem gambling and are assisted in accessing referral resources such as counselling and casino exclusion applications.

In December 2007, the National Addictions Management Service (NAMS) was appointed to manage the helpline during office hours. Since November 2009, Tanjong Pagar Family Service Centre joined in to man the problem gambling helpline after office hours on weekdays, weekends and public holidays. With the extension of helpline operating hours, NCPG has been effectively providing round-the-clock help for those - directly or indirectly - affected by problem gambling.



Since 2009, there has been a steady increase in the number of calls to the helpline due to greater awareness brought about by the 'Know The Line' campaign.

NCPG Public Consultation

Over the past year, NCPG consulted and engaged stakeholders from religious, community, grassroots, professional organisations and members of the public. The aim was to solicit views and suggestions on possible further support to problem gamblers and their families.



Mr. Lim Hock San at a "Know The Line" press conference.

These stakeholders have provided positive feedback on NCPG's implementation of the casino exclusion measures, public education initiatives and efforts in youth outreach.

With the opening of Singapore's two casinos, NCPG will continue to engage stakeholders on mitigating the effects of

problem gambling and to provide problem gamblers and their families with the support needed.

Research Initiatives

NCPG and MCYS have been commissioning regular studies on Singaporeans' behaviours and perceptions of gambling. Findings on the participation of gambling activities among Singapore residents were released in 2005 and 2008. Findings on perceptions and attitudes towards gambling issues were also released in 2006 and 2007. Details of these survey findings are available on NCPG's website.

Another focus of NCPG is to build local research capabilities. NCPG has established a research grant for all undergraduate and post-graduate students in Singapore to conduct original empirical research examining issues related to problem gambling. Since the inception of the research grant in 2006, there have been six undergraduate and two post-graduate recipients.



Know The Line – Empowering the Public

Active support from the public is the capstone in driving NCPG's "Know The Line" message. NCPG hopes to empower the public to become our advocates. More community engagement initiatives are already in the pipeline to build greater awareness and a sense of ownership in the community to tackle problem gambling at its root.

Corporate & Community Partnerships

Taking our message to where Singaporeans live, work and play, NCPG is teaming up with corporate and community partners to support our cause and spread the message. In July 2010, NCPG launched its Corporate & Community Partnership Programme to widen our public education outreach to more than 1 million Singaporeans. In just a few

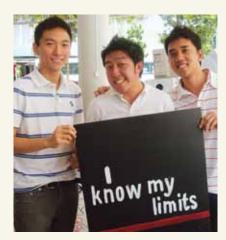
months, many corporate and community partners have pledged their support. We expect more to join our cause. We are also planning to work with labour unions to reach out to 18,000 union members. Talks, seminars and workshops on problem gambling will be used to build awareness among the employees at factories, shipyards, SMEs and MNCs.

Youth Chapter

Protecting our youth from problem gambling has also been our priority. NCPG is committed to reach out to the younger generation to warn them about the dire consequences of falling prey to gambling addiction and to inculcate the right values in our youth. Public education plans for young professionals and executives are also underway. Following positive feedback from new SAF recruits on our "Know The Line" skit, NCPG is looking into extending the skit to other uniformed groups. NCPG also has plans to further the collaboration with the Ministry of Defence to reach out to more national servicemen.

As for the schools, NCPG will continue to work with youth at educational institutions to implement programmes which enhance understanding of our core message. These include school outreach programmes and interactive activities such as skits and the use of popular social media platforms. We look forward to working with one of the largest uniformed youth organisations, the National Police Cadet Corps (NPCC), to train youth ambassadors as advocates for NCPG's message against gambling. For at-risk youth, we are partnering Ang Mo Kio Police Division under Project Green Leaf to identify and mitigate problems proactively.

To further NCPG's reach to youth at large through key influences, we are currently developing a curriculum in youth gambling prevention and intervention to equip our educators, full-time school counsellors, social service professionals, parents and other individuals who are involved in youth education and counselling.



Tertiary students at a "Play-It-Right" youth outreach roadshow.





Responsible Gambling (RG) and Casino Social Safeguards

Existing measures such as the entry levy and casino exclusion orders will remain as the cornerstone of our casino social safeguards framework. We remain committed to ensure that the stringent social safeguards put in place are effective. NCPG will also continue to work with gambling operators to ensure Responsible Gambling measures are implemented well. We aim to bring local responsible gambling standards up on par with international best practices. We also want to raise public awareness of the availability of pre-commitment programmes.

NCPG will conduct mystery shopping at the two casinos to ensure responsible gambling measures are properly implemented and assess which areas need improvement.

Research -Power of Information

he Council seeks to enhance the understanding of problem gambling and strengthen treatment and prevention practice through research. NCPG will continue to work with MCYS to commission research studies to understand gambling activities and problem gambling in Singapore. One key area of focus will be to understand the impact of gambling and problem gambling on families, as well as the gambling behaviours among the youth and elderly. By developing, accumulating, organising and disseminating research information, the Council hopes to better address problem gambling.



NCPG seeks advice from international experts on gambling behaviour.

Problem Gambler Help Services

NCPG works closely with NAMS and the Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society in delivering problem gambling intervention services. The Council will widen our scope of partnership and collaboration to provide more channels of help for problem gamblers and their families.

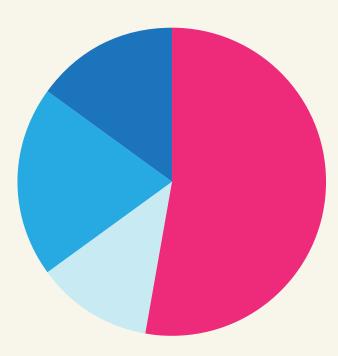
The next phase of our work will focus more on educating the public to detect early signs of problem gambling so as to minimise the harms to the individual, family and society. The Council will also widen our scope of partnership and collaboration to provide more help channels for problem gamblers and their families.



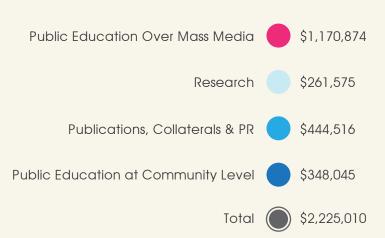
Participants at a youth gambling conference.



Public Education Fund



For the financial year (Sep 2009 – Aug 2010), the following expenditure has been incurred for Public Education:



Directory of Partners

Corporate Partners

888 Plaza coffeeshop Pte Ltd Blk 888 Woodlands Drive 50 Tel: 6363-3261 888 Eating House Pte Ltd #01-733, Singapore 730888 K Box Entertainment Group Pte Ltd 5 Kallang Way 2A #06-00 Tel: 6742-3113 / 6841-3202 K Pool Snookerium Pte Ltd Singapore 347494 www.kbox.sg Koufu 18 Woodlands Terrace Tel: 6506-0161 / 6752-1811 Singapore 738443 www.koufu.com.sg 11 Kung Chong Road Tel: 6479-6333 / 6479-6060 Premier Taxi Singapore 159147 www.premiertaxi.com 383 Sin Ming Drive Comfort Delgro Tel: 6555-1188 / 6452-7742 Singapore 575717 www.cdgtaxi.com.sg PSC Corporation Ltd 348 Jalan Boon Lay Tel: 6268-4822 / 6261-8123 Singapore 619529 www.psc.com.sg Polar Puffs & Cakes Pte Ltd 29 Woodlands Industrial Park E1 Tel: 6269-5877 / 6269-0779

#04-10, Northtech Lobby 2

Singapore 757716

www.polarpuffs-cakes.com

— Community Partners

9 King George's Avenue People's Association (PA) Tel: 6344-8222, Fax: 6345-4186 Singapore 208581 www.pa.gov.sg pa_water-venture@pa.gov.sg 100 Tyrwhitt Road Tel: 6348-3477 / 6293-1477 Football Association of Singapore (FAS) Fax: 6348-6477 / 6293-3728 Jalan Besar Stadium Singapore 207542 www.fas.org.sg info@fas.gov.sg Singapore Sports Council 230 Stadium Boulevard Tel: 6500-5000, Fax: 6440-9205 Singapore 397799 www.ssc.gov.sg ssc_gsm@ssc.gov.sg National Environment Agency (NEA) 40 Scotts Road Tel: 1800-2255-632. Fax: 6235-2611 **Environment Building** www.nea.gov.sg #13-00, Singapore 228231 Contact NEA@nea.gov.sg 1 Jurong West Central 2 Tel: 6445-0300, Fax: 6794-3710 YAH! Community College Jurong Point Shopping Centre www.yah.org.sg #06-01, Singapore 648886 contact@yah.org.sg