



Stay Strong – Play it safe page 21

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STAY STRONG Play it safe

Don't gamble your life away

IS THERE A SAFE WAY TO GAMBLE? THE ANSWER IS YES AND IT'S A MESSAGE FORMER NRL STAR AND COUNSELLOR ASHLEY GORDON IS TAKING TO COMMUNITY TO TRY AND REDUCE THE IMPACTS OF GAMBLING ON CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

"Gambling is a big problem in our communities and should be seen in the same way as other chronic issues because it's linked to mental-health problems, alcohol and substance abuse and financial hardship," Ashley says.

"But there is a way to gamble safely and that is to do it responsibly and in moderation, and to make sure it's not causing harm or arguments. If you're going to gamble, make sure the children are looked after and there's food in the fridge. Set time limits on how long to play for and don't get stuck in a hole.

"Look at what you can afford to lose and set some rules."

Ashley is the manager of the NSW Safe Gambling Program and is touring NSW delivering "Gambling – play it safe" workshops. The workshops are held over three days and include visiting organisations and the community to raise awareness on gambling

"WHEN GAMBLING BECOMES A PROBLEM, MONEY AND SELF-ESTEEM ISSUES AND SHAME WILL FOLLOW"

issues and events, which include music, barbecues and a forum where people can have a yarn.

"I don't want to tell people what not to do, just raise awareness of gambling and, if you are going to do it, then do it safely," he says.

"The biggest problem we've got is that gambling is not seen as a problem and our people don't talk about it, or acknowledge it. But it makes it hard to move forward if there's no acknowledgement of the problem.

"The other issue is that our people rarely go to mainstream gambling services."

When gambling becomes a problem, money and self-esteem issues and shame follow. Historically, gambling has been a social outing for people,



Ashley (second from top left) with workshop participants from Dubbo



Ashley Gordon played for Newcastle Knights and is now the manager of the NSW Safe Gambling Program. He is delivering “Gambling – play it safe” workshops across the country to raise awareness about responsible gambling. His message is to acknowledge it when gambling has become a problem and seek help.

The national Aboriginal Gambling Hotline 1800 752 948 is offering advice to reduce the impact of gambling on children, families and young people.





Read Play it safe on page 21

There are three levels of comprehension questions:

Level 1 – Literal. The answer is located in one sentence in the text.

Level 2 – Inferred or Interpretive. You need to make links between sentences and graphics (such as illustrations, maps and tables) and what you already know.

Level 3 – Applied. The answer is in your background knowledge, what you already know or feel.

ACTIVITY 1- READING

Shade one bubble.

1. Ashley Gordon played in the NRL for the Newcastle Knights before becoming an Aboriginal gambling consultant.(inferred)

TRUE FALSE

2. In what order did these happen? (inferred) Number the boxes 1, 2, 3, 4.

- Ashley Gordon won the Dally M Winger of the Year in 1990.
- Play it Safe gambling workshops were held in Tweed Heads in March 2011.
- NSW Safe Gambling Program was launched in 2010.
- The Centre for Gambling Education and Research was set up at Southern Cross University at Lismore in 2002.

3. Which of these best describes the program's attitude to gambling? (inferred)

- It is OK to gamble, as long as it does not cause harm to yourself or your family.
- Don't ever gamble.
- You should gamble every day.
- Betting on horse races is a form of gambling.

4. Ashley Gordon says that young people are taking much larger risks with gambling and looking for a "quick fix."

Using gambling as a "quick fix" means (inferred)

5. What is the overall purpose of this report? (applied)



ACTIVITY 2- LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS – SPELLING

The spelling mistakes in these sentences have been underlined.

Write the correct spelling for each word in the box.

1. Gambleing can cause arguments and financial problems.

2. This program aims to support familys.

Each sentence has one word that is incorrect.

Write the correct spelling of the word in the box.

1. It is a problem in our **community's**.

2. You can gamble in **modderation**.



ACTIVITY 3- LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS – GRAMMAR

Shade one bubble.

1. Which words are all nouns?

- distantly, loudly, sweetly
- falling, swimming, surfing
- therefore, whenever, however
- cards, horses, poker machines

2. The workshops provide an opportunity to schedule forums “where people can have a yarn.”

“where people can have a yarn” is an example of

- a simile
- colloquial language
- alliteration



ACTIVITY 4- LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS – PUNCTUATION

Shade one bubble.

1. An apostrophe has been left out of this sentence.

Where does the missing apostrophe go?

Ashley s role is to provide service s to a lot of communitie s

2. What punctuation is missing from the end of this sentence?

The workshops also provide information about services

- full stop (.)
- question mark (?)
- ellipsis points (...)
- exclamation mark (!)



ACTIVITY- 5 WRITING A DISCUSSION

A Discussion is a type of Argument text that argues two or more points of view about an issue. Discussions begin by stating the Issue, and then give different Sides to the debate, concluding with a Resolution, judging which side is more valid.

| Argument type | Social purpose | Stages | Phases |
|---------------|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Discussion | Debates two or more points of view | Issue Sides for & against Resolution | evidence statistics quotes examples elaborations conclusions |

There should be “zero tolerance” on gambling.

Write a Discussion to argue your point of view about this issue.

Think about:

- examples, statistics, elaborations and other evidence to support your ideas.

Remember to:

- research your topic and plan your writing
- choose your arguments carefully
- give reasons for your arguments
- give examples to support your arguments
- write in sentences
- pay attention to your spelling and punctuation
- use a new paragraph for each new idea
- choose your words carefully to convince a reader of your opinions
- check and edit your writing so that it is clear for a reader.