

# BE AHEAD OF THE GAME

Gambling awareness program for young people



Be Ahead of the Game is a free education program that helps school communities understand how young people may be affected by gambling and mitigate the risks.

## What's the issue?

Driven by saturation levels of gambling advertising, rapidly changing technology, and a blurring of the line between gaming and gambling, young people are increasingly at risk of harm from gambling.



An average of 948 gambling ads were shown daily on Victorian free-to-air TV in 2021.<sup>1</sup>



Even though gambling is only legal for people aged 18+, 1 in 5 boys and 1 in 8 girls aged 16-17 reported having gambled in the past year.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Nielsen, (Advertising spend estimates and spot counts) Nielsen Ad Intel, Jan 3, 2021 – Jan 1 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Australian Institute of Family Studies, *Growing Up in Australia Longitudinal Study of Australian Children 2018 Annual Statistical Report (Gambling activity among teenagers and their parents)*, 2018.



Drawing on the latest research, this free program supports your school community to help students develop informed attitudes to gambling.

Our school education program offers:

- free face-to-face and online information sessions for teachers, parents, carers and students
- units of work to incorporate in your curriculum plans across a variety of subject areas
- useful resources for parents and teachers
- customisable school gambling policy template.

## For parents and carers

Free online information sessions help equip parents and carers of school students to:

- talk with them about the risks of gambling and gaming
- keep them safe
- get professional advice and support.

### Talking to young people about gambling

(one hour):

- facts about young people and gambling
- factors that influence young people to gamble
- signs of gambling harm.

### Talking to young people about gaming

(one hour):

- how young people are exposed to gambling through the features of some video games, such as loot boxes, simulated gambling and microtransactions
- signs of gaming addiction.

## For students

Be Ahead of the Game workshops help secondary school students to develop the skills to think critically, and make informed decisions, about gambling. Available online or face-to-face, the interactive workshops are delivered by local community educators.

See the table below for details of the free, one-hour student workshops your school can host.

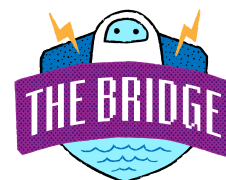
## For teachers

Be Ahead of the Game offers teachers information and resources to help students and the wider school community understand the risks associated with gambling.

Teachers can book a free online or face-to-face professional development session (one hour), which includes strategies for developing a whole-of-school approach to raise awareness and tackle the issue.

### The Bridge

The Bridge is a free, creative program developed for upper primary students (years 5 and 6).



The curriculum-aligned program helps students, parents and teachers to recognise when a previously fun gaming activity may be affecting a child's wellbeing.

### Curriculum-mapped units of work

Teaching resources that raise awareness of the risks of gambling are available for years 10 to 12, including VCE Vocational Major. They cover:

- literacy
- numeracy
- personal development skills
- health
- health and human development
- media studies
- humanities.

Free one-hour workshops for students:		Years 7-9	Years 9-10	Years 10-12	Years 11-12
<b>Know the score</b>	Helps students think critically about the risks of gambling and examines the factors that influence their attitudes towards gambling.	●		●	
<b>When gaming meets gambling</b>	Explores the increasingly blurred line between gaming and gambling, helping students to stay safe and maintain their wellbeing.	●		●	
<b>Your money matters – financial literacy</b>	Helps students develop financial literacy and awareness of the financial risks of gambling.		●		●



To find out more, download resources or book a free information session, visit:

[beaheadofthegame.vic.gov.au](http://beaheadofthegame.vic.gov.au)

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