

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE

Greek Welfare Centre Gambling Services Project

The Greek Welfare Centre is the welfare and community services arm of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia. The Centre provides a range of services in the community, including bi-lingual counselling, support programs, services for the frail aged, families, young children and community education. The Centre's Problem Gambling Services Project is funded by the NSW Government through the Office of Liquor, Gaming Responsible Gambling Fund. The NSW Government launched a new DVD which will educate people on the myths and false beliefs about poker machines. Provided locally through a range of not-for-profit organisations, it aims to lower the impact of problem gambling on communities in the State. The 10-minute DVD dispels common beliefs people held about how gaming machines work. It will be used in education sessions across Sydney in the coming year, and is also available via the web. It was stated in the media release that: "Some may believe that if a machine hasn't paid out for a while it is 'due' for a win, or that if you hit or stroke the machine in a different way, you will have a better chance of winning. Others believe they have a lucky machine that favours them personally. "The DVD addresses all of these and more. It makes the point that there is no way to influence the performance of a gaming machine. The process is completely random. Nobody, not the venue or the manufacturer or the player has any influence over it. And if, like many problem gamblers, you put all your win-

nings back into the machine, it's a mathematical certainty that you will lose everything eventually."

The Government funds free Gambling Help services throughout the state. The Gambling Help phone and online counselling services are available 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week on 1800 858 858 and at www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au

Gambling Help for the Greek community is provided by the Greek Wel-

fare Centre Gambling Services Project. People can access the DVD through the Greek Welfare Centre, via the gambling help website or can borrow it from local libraries.

The Greek Welfare Centre's Gambling Service Project offers:

- Counselling to individuals and families
- Bilingual counselling
- Psycho-education to individuals or groups

NEW FLASHING LIGHTS TO BE INSTALLED AT LOCAL SCHOOLS

Member for Marrickville Carmel Tebbutt has welcomed the announcement by the Minister for Transport and Roads David Campbell that flashing lights are to be installed at two local schools. Ms Tebbutt said flashing lights would be installed on Stanmore Road for students from Lewisham Public School and Christian Brothers School, as well as on Toothill Street for Newington College Stanmore. "It is great news for local families that flashing lights will be installed at these schools reminding motorists to slow down and take care" Ms Tebbutt said. "Children are our most vulnerable road users, and nothing is more important than their safety.

"Children can be unpredictable, particularly around roads, which is why these flashing lights are so important. "There is absolutely no excuse for speeding and these flashing lights will remind motorists to slow down because there are school students about." Ms Tebbutt said these schools were among 50 school zones selected in the latest round to receive flashing lights under the NSW Government's \$46.5 million program. Flashing lights are installed at the schools that needed them most based on strict criteria including crash history and risk, traffic and pedestrian volumes, speed limits, road environment and visibility. "Most motorists are doing the right thing, but to protect our children the whole community – motorists, parents and students – need to work together and take care on the roads. "Driving at just 5kmh over the speed limit will double your risk of having a crash – it's not a risk anyone should take in areas where kids are about," Ms Tebbutt said.

*The Hon Carmel Tebbutt
Deputy Premier - Member for Marrickville*

NATIONAL RECALL OF SWIVEL PLUG EXTENSION LEADS

Arlec Australia has initiated a national recall of swivel plug extension leads because they pose a potential fire or electrical hazard.

Fair Trading Minister Virginia Judge said models SPL3 (3 metres), SPL7 (7 metres), and SPL10 (10 metres) were being recalled after the company received reports the plug may separate from the body, exposing live parts.

"If you have purchased any of these extension leads you must stop using them immediately," she said.

"While no injuries or incidents have been reported, consumers should return the product to the place of purchase for a replacement or full refund.

"More than 6,000 extension leads were sold nationally between 1 November 2009 and 16 January 2010 at retailers including Bunnings and K-Mart.

"Arlec Australia has advertised the recall extensively in newspapers across Australia – with the most recent ad being published on Thursday.

"I congratulate Arlec Australia for acting swiftly to remove the products from the shelf.

"Voluntary recalls play an important role in product safety by minimising the risk to consumers."

For a replacement or a refund, consumers should contact Arlec Customer Service for assistance on 03 9727 8860, Fax 1300 360 650 (toll free) or visit www.arlec.com.au.

For more information visit the recall website at www.recalls.gov.au.

Greek spin on ovarian cancer awareness

Tania Tiropanis is one of the 11th Hour Ambassadors for Ovarian Cancer Month Campaign

Every 11 hours an Australian woman will die from ovarian cancer. To mark Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month in February comedian Jean Kittson and 11 Australian women teamed up with Ovarian Cancer Australia to help raise awareness of the disease and help generate vital funds for programmes that support women diagnosed with the disease, and their families.

There is no early detection test for ovarian cancer and while the disease is often considered a silent killer, scientific evidence shows that many women do experience symptoms that if acted on, could result in an earlier diagnosis and a better chance of beating the disease.

Jean Kittson, the 2010 Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month Campaign Ambassador said, "Ovarian cancer affects someone's friend, someone's partner,

someone's sister, someone's daughter and someone's mother.

I'm delighted to be part of such an important health initiative for Australian women. Together, we can all learn the symptoms of ovarian cancer to save lives and at the same time raise vital funds to help women who have the disease."

Tannia Tiropanis, a member of the Napoleon Perdis National Creative Team, is one of the 11th Hour Ambassadors for the national health campaign.

"Napoleon Perdis is incredibly proud to be a partner of Ovarian Cancer Australia. When I was invited to be part of this campaign to raise awareness of the symptoms of ovarian cancer among women in my community, I was thrilled to be involved in such an important women's health issue."

"My family has been touched by cancer, so if by working with Ovarian Cancer Australia we can help save the life

of just one woman by raising awareness about the early symptoms of ovarian cancer as well as raise vital funds to support the invaluable services offered by Ovarian Cancer Australia, then we will have helped to make a difference," Tannia Tiropanis said.

Nicole Livingstone, co-founder and Patron of Ovarian Cancer Australia said, "We really value what Jean Kittson, Tannia Tiropanis and all the 11th Hour Ambassadors are doing to help us deliver this essential health message to Australian women. It's this support that has given us the opportunity to educate women and hopefully help save lives."

Ms Kittson said, "By teaming up we hope to inform women about a disease that is the 6th most common cause of cancer death among Australian women and help them learn to recognise the symptoms of ovarian cancer so that they can seek early treatment which could save their lives.



"Most women think they are protected through a Pap smear. However this test does not detect ovarian cancer. There is no test to detect ovarian cancer. Only knowing the symptoms will save your life. Our message to every Australian woman is make sure you know the symptoms of ovarian cancer because it might save your life. Don't leave it until the 11th hour," Ms. Kittson said.

The 11th Hour Ambassadors are 11 women chosen to represent Australian women of all ages, cultures and professions to emphasise that women should not leave learning the symptoms of ovarian cancer until the 11th hour!"

For information call 1300 660 334 or go to: www.ovariancancer.net.au

(source: neos kosmos)