

Dear Faith Leader,

You are cordially invited to a **Faith Leaders Forum on Gambling Harm** on **May 19th from 12.30-2.30pm** at the **Fairfield Youth and Community Centre, 55 Vine Street, Fairfield East**

**Guest Speaker** for the event is Rev. Tim Costello. He is a well-known faith leader and gambling reform advocate, and became involved in this through his ministry 30 years ago.

The forum aims to bring religious leaders from many faiths together to speak on the issue of gambling harm in our Fairfield community. Currently \$1.5million is lost every day just on poker machines in Fairfield. Gambling harm affects many people, no matter what their religion is.

We know religious leaders are highly respected and influential members of their community. Through the forum we wish to **support** religious leaders in understanding the impact of gambling on individuals and the community, as well as **share information** on local support available for community members impacted. The event will also provide opportunity for **discussion and questions** and explore ways to **work together**.



*“As a faith leader I know that people are hungry for hope. The sense that they feel invisible and rarely seem to get a break is pervasive. It is why the faith that I am loved and accepted, despite the struggles of life, and belong to a community, given the anxiety of loneliness, is so critical. Faith offers such hope. But superficially so do the pokies. They also offer hope and even community. But we know the result is often financial distress, shame and greater aloneness. This is why addressing the glittering sham hope on offer in pokies clubs is a spiritual issue.”*

Quote from Rev Tim Costello, Director of Ethical Voice Pty Ltd, Executive Director of Micah Australia, Senior Fellow of Centre for Public Christianity, Chief Advocate Alliance for Gambling Reform

**Places are limited due to COVID 19 restrictions, we apologies in advance if we cannot accommodate you due to high numbers.**

**Please RSVP by 15th May to Marie Saliba [msaliba@corecs.org.au](mailto:msaliba@corecs.org.au) or 0472 866 950**

**The event is a collaboration between Fairfield City Council, CORE Community Services, Alliance for Gambling Reform, Assyrian Resource Centre, NSW Department of Communities and Justice, NSW Police and Multicultural Problem Gambling Service**