



ACT Gambling and Racing Commission

# Research Agenda

## 2021-2024



**ACT**  
Government



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# RESEARCH AGENDA 2021-2024

The ACT Gambling and Racing Commission (the Commission) is committed to a public health approach to prevent gambling harm, guided by its five-year *Strategy for Gambling Harm Prevention: A Public Health Approach 2019-2024*. This Strategy relies on the development and delivery of evidence-based, co-ordinated activities and initiatives addressing harm as experienced by people who gamble, their families and the community. The Commission supports groups within the ACT community to contribute to building the evidence base through the Gambling Harm Prevention and Mitigation Fund. Priority areas for support through the Fund are presented in this Research Agenda 2021 – 2024.

The prevention and reduction of gambling harm are core objectives of the Commission. The adoption of a public health approach reflects the recognition that many people are experiencing gambling harm without meeting the criteria for 'problem gambling'. People around gamblers can also experience gambling harm, not just gamblers themselves.

The Commission's Strategy aims to prevent gambling harm and promote wellbeing. To deliver the Strategy, the Commission supports the integrated and co-ordinated delivery of a wide spectrum of initiatives addressing harm, encompassing prevention, reduction and community awareness.

Through the Gambling Harm Prevention and Mitigation Fund, the Commission encourages organisations and individuals to take part in building the evidence base to inform the initiatives designed to prevent and reduce gambling harm in the ACT. By funding external research and projects, the Commission aims to draw on lived experiences and perspectives within the community to deliver more effective interventions and support.

## RESEARCH THEMES

- Monitoring
- Community impact
- Modes of gambling
- Harm prevention
- Treatment and support

# RESEARCH THEMES

## MONITORING

Research data underpins the work of the Commission, providing insight into trends in gambling participation, gambling harm and help-seeking. The gambling prevalence survey conducted in the ACT every five years monitors long term changes and impacts. For shorter term outcomes, surveys, interviews, operational data and stakeholder consultation provide useful analytical data.

### Guiding questions and key issues

- I. How do we better understand gambling harm in the ACT?
- II. How do gambling trends in the ACT compare to other jurisdictions in Australia?
- III. How has COVID-19 impacted gambling in the ACT?
- IV. What impact does gambling regulation and policy have on gambling participation and harm?

## COMMUNITY IMPACT

While gambling can be an activity that many people enjoy, a continuum of harm and negative consequences can impact individuals, families and the broader community. The Commission is interested in research into the impact of gambling on different demographic groups including culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and the role played by factors such as gender, age, socio-economic status and stigma.

### Guiding questions and key issues

- I. What contributes to and protects against gambling harm? How can protective factors be facilitated?
- II. How do we better understand the costs to the community of gambling?
- III. What do we know of the different impacts of gambling and the burden of gambling harm on diverse demographic groups in the ACT?
- IV. What are the perceptions and understanding of gambling harm among young people?
- V. How can we better promote and measure wellbeing in the community through our gambling policies?

## MODES OF GAMBLING

The gambling market is dynamic. The Commission seeks to understand changing modes of gambling, emerging products and product risks, and the impact of technological innovations.

### Guiding questions and key issues

- I. What do we understand of the differences between online and in-venue gambling and their relationship to gambling harm?
- II. What are the links between gaming and gambling?
- III. What are the trends in relation to sports betting in the ACT community?
- IV. How can protective factors be better incorporated into different products?

## HARM PREVENTION

Gambling harm can be prevented by reducing or delaying the actual onset of gambling harm but harm is also prevented by reducing the risks and the extent of harm associated with gambling. The Commission requires research on the effectiveness of prevention initiatives, as well as seeking further evidence to support the development of new and innovative approaches. A further area of interest to the Commission is gambling harm literacy in the ACT.

### Guiding questions and key issues

- I. How do we measure the effectiveness of the ACT's harm prevention initiatives?
- II. What new prevention methods could the ACT adopt and what is the evidence of their effectiveness?
- III. How can we improve in-venue harm prevention tools?
- IV. How effective have efforts been to promote gambling harm literacy in the ACT?

## TREATMENT AND SUPPORT

The Commission is committed to supporting members of the ACT community affected by gambling and related harms. To ensure treatment and interventions reflect best practice, the Commission seeks to further develop the evidence base on support provision, uptake and impacts.

### Guiding questions and key issues

- I. What treatment and support services are most effective for the spectrum of harm in the ACT?
- II. What does best practice treatment look like and how do we measure it?
- III. Are co-morbidities adequately considered in our treatment and support approaches?
- IV. What are some practical strategies for "positive play" that could be adopted in the ACT?

## The Gambling Harm Prevention and Mitigation Fund

The Gambling Harm Prevention and Mitigation Fund was established in 2010 to support projects, events and research for the purpose of preventing and reducing gambling harm.

The Fund is sourced from a 0.75 per cent levy on gaming machine licencees' gross gaming machine revenue, a 0.4 per cent contribution from each club's net revenue, as well as contributions from Tabcorp and Casino Canberra Limited.

Further details on the Fund, including guidelines and eligibility criteria, can be found on the Gambling and Racing Commission's [website](#).