

## 2014 ACT Gambling Expenditure Study Summary of Findings

The ACT Gambling and Racing Commission contracted The Australian National University's Centre for Gambling Research to undertake a comprehensive study of gambling and problem gambling in the ACT. The 2014 Gambling Expenditure Study provides an analysis of the expenditure data reported by gamblers during the 2009 and 2014 *Survey on Gambling, Health and Wellbeing in the ACT* (The Prevalence Survey).

### Major findings at a glance

Participation rates for most types of gambling have fallen except sports & special events betting and bingo. The total amount of money lost gambling among ACT adults in 2014 was approximately \$99 million. This compares to \$136 million in 2009. The extent of the decrease suggests this is a result of the changing spending patterns of individuals.

Net expenditure shares across levels of gambling harm:

- Amongst gamblers experiencing harm (PGSI scores of one or more), 44.1% of all losses are attributable to this relatively small group (5.4% of the ACT population);
- The three activities that accounted for the large majority of total losses were betting on EGMs (\$37m), lotteries (\$33m), and horse and greyhound races (\$16m);
- People with PGSI scores of three or more accounted for 20.6% of losses summed across all activities, with the largest expenditure shares for this group being for sports betting (42.2%), EGMs (28.2%) and horse and greyhound races (23.9%);
- While the proportion of people gambling on any activity fell by 15 percentage points from 2009 to 2014, Problem Gambling Expenditure Shares did not change significantly during this time.

### Gambling expenditure (self-reported estimates) in the last year

Category	2009 survey	2014 survey	Number of ACT adults*
positive net expenditure (profit)	1.8%	3.6%	9,992
net expenditure (loss) of less than \$103	65.1%	71.1%	197,344
net expenditure (loss) between \$103 and \$999	22.8%	17.2%	47,740
net expenditure (loss) between \$1,000 and \$9,999	9.0%	7.7%	21,327
net expenditure (loss) over \$10,000	1.4%	0.4%	1,110

\*Based on 2011 ACT ABS Census data, 277,558 persons over 18 years of age.

#### Socio-economic and demographic expenditure shares:

- The proportion of money lost by men and women was consistent across the 2009 and 2014 surveys for individual activities;
- Those aged 65 and over accounted for a greater proportion of total money lost in 2014 than 2009. More specifically, they accounted for a larger share of losses on EGMs, lottery and races over this time period;
- Gambling losses for people who are in a relationship increased from 2009 (51%) to 2014 (64.2%);
- Expenditure shares for education groups did not differ significantly across the two surveys, with exception of people with bachelor degrees, which was larger in 2014 (33.2%) compared to 2009 (18.3%).

#### Money lost over the internet compared to other means:

- 15% of gambling losses came from gambling over the internet, compared to 85% of losses via other (non-internet) means;
- 56.6% of money lost over the internet came from people experiencing some level gambling harm (PGSI score of 1+); however, 40.3% of money lost via other means came from the same group;
- 17.7% of money lost via the internet was attributable to people experiencing moderate to severe levels of gambling harm, compared to 21.4% of losses via other means for the same group;
- Money lost over the internet was disproportionately attributable to men (85.7%), those aged 25-44 (57.4%) and people with trade certificates or diplomas.

#### **Support is available**

Anyone experiencing harm from gambling is encouraged to seek assistance.

Confidential help is available anytime at no charge by phoning the national gambling helpline on 1800 858 858 or through the national online help service at:

[www.gamblinghelponline.org.au](http://www.gamblinghelponline.org.au)