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# A GUIDE TO AUSTRALASIA'S GAMBLING INDUSTRIES

Facts, Figures and Statistics

## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Gambling Research

2019/20

# A Guide to Australasia's Gambling Industries

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# Chapter 13

## Gambling Research

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### Version Control

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## AUSTRALIAN GAMBLING RESEARCH

### National

#### *Productivity Commission - 1999*

In 1998 the then Commonwealth Treasurer, Peter Costello, asked the Productivity Commission to investigate:

- the economic impacts of the gambling industries, including interrelationships with other industries such as tourism, leisure, other entertainment and retailing; and
- the social impacts of gambling industries, including the incidence of gambling abuse, the cost and nature of welfare support services, the redistributive effects of gambling and the effects of gambling on community development and the provision of other services.

Other matters examined included the effects of regulatory structures (including licensing arrangements, entry and advertising restrictions and differing taxation arrangements), the implication of new technologies, the impact on Commonwealth, state and territory budgets and the adequacy of ABS statistics on gambling.<sup>1</sup>

The Final Report, *Australia's Gambling Industries*, was released in November 1999. It can be accessed from the [Australian Productivity Commission](#) website.

#### *Productivity Commission - 2010*

In July 2008, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) endorsed an update of the 1999 Productivity Commission Inquiry into Gambling.

The inquiry commenced on 24 November 2008. The Commission released its draft report on 21 October 2009 and the final report was handed to Government on 26 February 2010.

The Final Inquiry Report – '*Gambling*' – which was released by the Commonwealth Government on 23 June 2010<sup>2</sup>, includes recommendations on the structure of gambling policy research and evaluation in Australia.

It can be accessed from the [Australian Productivity Commission](#) website.

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<sup>1</sup> Productivity Commission (1999), *Australia's Gambling Industries*, Report no. 10, AusInfo, Canberra.

<sup>2</sup> Productivity Commission (2010), *Gambling*, Report no. 50, Canberra.

### ***Gambling Research Australia (2003-2014)***

Gambling Research Australia (GRA) was first established in 2003 as an initiative of the Ministerial Council on Gambling to develop and manage a national Australian gambling research program.

GRA is ongoing as a partnership between the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments to initiate and manage a national gambling research program.

The GRA research agenda has commissioned studies on a number of topics – including:

- helping individuals set their limits including access to cash and pre-commitment;
- responsible gambling environments;
- gaming machine standards-developing better consumer protection;
- a preventative and early intervention strategy targeted at those at risk of problem gambling; and
- development of harm minimisation measures for interactive gambling.

More information and all GRA publications are available from the [Gambling Research Australia](#) website.

### ***Australian Institute of Family Studies – Australian Gambling Research Centre***

The Australian Gambling Research Centre (AGRC) was established under the Commonwealth [Gambling Measures Act 2012](#) and has been in operation since 1 July 2013.

The AGRC, a division of the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS), aims to provide research and resources to increase the capacity and capability of policymakers, researchers and professionals working in the gambling sector.

The AGRC research program is ongoing and covers an extensive range of topics, including:

- harm caused by gambling to problem gamblers, the families and communities of problem gamblers, and those at risk of experiencing harm;
- measures that may be undertaken to reduce harm; and
- statistics and data on recreational gambling.

More information and all AGRC publications are available from the website of the [Australian Gambling Research Centre](#)

## **States and Territories**

### **Australian Capital Territory**

The [ACT Gambling and Racing Commission](#) is an independent body established under the *Gambling and Racing Control Act 1999*.

Together with the Centre for Gambling Research at the Australian National University, it monitors and researches the social effects of gambling and problem gambling in the ACT.

Research is funded through the [Gambling Harm Prevention and Mitigation Fund](#).

Gambling research reports commissioned by the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission are available on the Commission's website [here](#).

Reports can also be found on the website of the [ANU Centre for Gambling Research](#).

## New South Wales

In New South Wales the [Responsible Gambling Fund \(RGF\)](#) supports projects and services that aim to reduce and prevent the harms associated with problem gambling, including research. The RGF is supported and administered by the [Office of Responsible Gambling](#).

Commissioned research projects are used to better inform:

- improvements to policy and regulation;
- evaluating and guiding improvements to programs and support;
- public debate on gambling harm, increasing community awareness and understanding;
- anticipating and keeping pace with emerging trends.

Current research and published research are available on the [GambleAware](#) website.

Academic research centres in NSW include the [Gambling Treatment and Research Clinic](#) (Brain and Mind Centre, The University of Sydney).

## Northern Territory

In the Northern Territory (NT) the [Community Benefit Fund](#) provides:

- funding for approved gambling amelioration and problem gambling support programs;
- funding for gambling-related research projects undertaken by government and / or other approved organisations; and
- Community Benefit Fund grants for approved community improvement and development projects undertaken by eligible non-profit community organisations.

The fund receives money from levies imposed on the operation of electronic gaming machines operated by licensed hotels and casinos throughout the Northern Territory.

NT specific research can be found on the website of the [NT Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade](#).

Academic centres researching gambling in the Northern Territory include the [Menzies School of Health Research at Charles Darwin University](#).

## Queensland

The Queensland Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation (QOLGR) undertakes research into gambling that provides direction for policy.

This research, as well as statistical reporting, can be found on the website of the [Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney-General](#).

Academic centres researching gambling located in Queensland include the [Experimental Gambling Research Laboratory at Central Queensland University](#).

## South Australia

Consumer and Business Services (CBS) - Liquor, Gambling and Lotteries is the South Australian regulator for commercial forms of gambling.

Research reports are available on the CBS website [here](#).

In December 2019 the South Australian Parliament passed legislation to expand the scope of the [Gambler's Rehabilitation Fund](#) (GRF) to allow for investment in research.

The [Office for Problem Gambling](#) administers the Gamblers Rehabilitation Fund

A [Strategic Research Agenda](#) was established by the [Office for Problem Gambling](#) to provide an evidence base for what works to prevent and minimise gambling harm in South Australia.

Research reports are available on the Office for Problem Gambling website [here](#).

The [Independent Gambling Research Consortium](#) (IGRC) in South Australia undertakes research into the nature and impact of gambling.

The IGRC comprises a cross-disciplinary network of researchers from the following universities:

- [South Australia Centre for Economic Studies](#), University of Adelaide;
- School of Psychology, University of Adelaide;
- Public Health Information Development Unit, Torrens University Australia;
- Adelaide Law School, University of Adelaide;
- School of Health, University of New England; and
- Menzies School of Health Research, Charles Darwin University..

## Tasmania

In Tasmania the Community Support Levy has funded a number of major studies into gambling.

The levy is funded by a percentage of the gross profit derived from gaming machines in hotels and clubs and 50% of these proceeds are distributed for the provision of:

- research into gambling;
- services for the prevention of compulsive gambling;
- treatment for the rehabilitation of compulsive gamblers;
- community education concerning gambling; and
- other health services.

The Tasmanian [Gambling Support Program](#), located within the Department of Communities, has specific research reports available [here](#).

## Victoria

The Victorian Gambling Research Program was previously administered by the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing in the Department of Justice.

On 1 July 2012 the [Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation](#) (VRGF) was established.

The VRGF is an independent statutory authority whose role is to help people affected by problem gambling, as well as their families and friends. The Foundation also acts to foster a greater understanding and awareness of the concept of responsible gambling in the wider community.

The Foundation funds and oversees a range of services including:

- treatment and support services;
- the Gambling Information Resource Office (GIRO)
- community education and prevention initiatives;
- professional development for clinicians; and
- research.

Information about the VRGF gambling research agenda and grants program, VRGF reports, publications and resources is available from the VRGF website.

Academic centres in Victoria conducting gambling research include:

- [The Melbourne Monash Gambling and Social Determinants Unit](#)
- [The School of Public Health and Preventative Medicine at Monash University](#)

## NEW ZEALAND GAMBLING RESEARCH

In New Zealand the *Gambling Act 2003* requires an integrated problem gambling strategy that includes scientific research associated with gambling.

The [New Zealand Ministry of Health](#) website makes available the New Zealand gambling research strategy, research implementation plans and publications.

Further information can also be found at the website of the [Gambling and Addictions Research Centre](#), at New Zealand's AUT University, which has been significantly involved in gambling research since 1991.

## MAJOR GAMBLING RESEARCH FORUMS/CONFERENCES IN AUSTRALASIA

### *National Association for Gambling Studies (NAGS)*

The [National Association for Gambling Studies](#) (NAGS) is the leading Australian forum for research and discourse on gambling issues.

The Association has members from treatment agencies, academics, regulators, the industry and gamblers themselves and aims to promote discussion and research into all areas of gambling activity.

NAGS holds an annual conference in Australia hosting gambling research and discussion from both Australian and International academics, individuals and organisations.

### *International Think Tank on Gambling Research, Policy and Practice (NZ)*

This bi-annual event is one of the leading international conferences on problem gambling, attracting delegates from New Zealand and around the world.

The conference aims to enhance the skills of the providers who work in this sector, sharing knowledge about the latest research, public health interventions and treatment techniques, and encouraging national and international collaborations.

The [International Think Tank on Gambling Research, Policy and Practice](#) conference is hosted by the Gambling and Addictions Research Centre at AUT University.