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Recent Research Abstracts

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GAMBLING

Gambling Research Australia. (2005). *Problem Gambling and Harm: Towards a National Definition*. Melbourne: Victorian Government Department of Justice.

<http://www.gamblingresearch.org.au/CA256DB1001771FB/page/The+Research+Library-+GRA+Reports-National+Definition?OpenDocument&1=30-The+Research+Library~&2=40-+GRA+Reports~&3=0-National+Definition~>

This report was commissioned by the Ministerial Council on Gambling as the first of seven priority areas of a research agenda on gambling. The report was prepared specifically to develop a nationally agreed definition as to what constitutes problem gambling. The process involved conducting a comprehensive literature review of materials on problem gambling including measurements and the harm resulting from problem gambling and then obtaining feedback from stakeholders on materials produced in the literature review. As a result, the following definition was recommended in the report:

“Problem gambling is characterized by difficulties limiting money and/or time spent on gambling which leads to adverse effects for the gambler, others or for the community”.

This definition incorporates both the ‘behavioural’ and ‘harm’ elements of problem gambling and was therefore considered useful for the needs of a broader range of stakeholders including policy-makers, psychologists, social workers, counsellors, educators and the gambling industry.

South Australia Centre for Economic Studies. (2005). *Community Impacts of Electronic Gaming Machine Gambling*. Melbourne: Victorian Department of Justice.

[http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/CA256902000FE154/Lookup/GRP_Reports_Files6/\\$file/PartAWAVic05whole.pdf#xml=http://search.justice.vic.gov.au/!sysquery/!rl5582/1/hilite](http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/CA256902000FE154/Lookup/GRP_Reports_Files6/$file/PartAWAVic05whole.pdf#xml=http://search.justice.vic.gov.au/!sysquery/!rl5582/1/hilite)

This study set out to identify the impact of electronic gaming machines (EGMs) on local communities by comparing certain local areas in Victoria with socio-economically similar regions of Western Australia where there are no EGMs outside Burswood casino. The study concluded that there were differences between the two states on a number of variables that were attributable to the different gambling environments. Victorian GPs in subject areas, for instance, were four times more likely than their Western Australian counterparts to report patients with health problems associated with gambling.

Oei, Tian PS & Raylu, Namrata. (2005) Familial influence on offspring gambling: a cognitive mechanism for transmission of gambling behaviour in families. *Psychological Medicine*. 34(7), 1279-1288.

Results of a study of 189 families (546 individuals) showed that parents’ (especially fathers’) gambling cognitions and gambling behaviours positively correlated with offspring gambling behaviors and cognitions. The findings show, however, that the influence of parental gambling cognition on offspring gambling behavior is indirect and via offspring cognitions. The results suggest a possible cognitive mechanism for transmission of gambling behavior in the family from one generation to the next.