

## **UTAS Gambling Research Grant Program**

Research proposals into the individual and social impacts of gambling are sought from Phd, Honours and Masters students and academic staff for the UTAS Gambling Research Grant Program. The program is funded by the Community Support Levy, through the Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Service' Gambling Support Program.

The UTAS Gambling Research Grant Program aims to identify gaps in research, with an emphasis on research that concerns Tasmanian gambling and its impact.

Applicants should submit proposals in response to the following priority areas. In special cases alternative topics can be submitted, however it is required that in these cases the applicants contact the Department of Health and Human Services via the UTAS Office of Research Services to discuss the proposed topic.

It is envisaged most projects will be six to twelve months in duration and have a budget of between \$5000 to \$10,000. Larger projects of maximum two years will also be considered. Such projects would be funded on a staged basis. As a term of the grant agreement, successful applicants will be required to submit reports to a high standard documenting the results of the research.

Where UTAS researchers are currently involved in projects with non - UTAS researchers a joint application can be submitted. The UTAS researcher/s must be listed as Chief Investigator/s.

Grant money must be used specifically for the proposed research project.

### **Research priority areas**

#### **Correlating behaviours**

Do problem and 'at risk' gamblers have an unhealthy approach to life on other fronts? Nutrition? Alcohol? Exercise? What impact would improvement in these other areas of lifestyle have on unhealthy gambling? What interagency collaborations - eg Drug and alcohol services and gambling services - would assist this approach? Are there examples of integrated approaches that work?

#### **Youth gambling**

How significant is gambling industry marketing as an influence over young people's gambling choices and behaviour?; How are risk factors affecting young people best countered by community education and regulation? What moves adolescents from occasional gambling to problem gambling in the 18 – 24 age bracket?

#### **Community education**

Which target groups are responsive to community education around particular issues, and which groups aren't responsive? (Following the work of UK epidemiologist Michael Marmot suggesting why some populations resist health messages).

### **Health and community sector**

What are the levels of knowledge, and the spectrum of values about gambling and problem gambling amongst general practitioners, and other health and community service providers? What are the levels of awareness about referral pathways and appropriate responses to client gambling issues among these health and community professionals? Are their responses effective?

### **Community and Families**

See Community Impact Assessment as per page 251 Tasmanian Social and Economic Impact Study Volume 1 2008. [The South Australian Centre for Economic Studies. Commissioned by The Department of Treasury and Finance Tasmania. June 2008](#)

What are the impacts of gambling on families and local communities? What is the revenue, equal to the loss to players, to the local gambling venues? What are the impacts on family support services and other health and community services? Is there a relationship between the density of poker machine distribution in a local community and the rate of problem gambling in that area? This is potentially a large project and will require the applicant making reference to additional specifications and criteria. A briefing paper is currently being produced and will be available later in 2008. There are several components to the study which could be done as separate projects.

### **Additional information - Australian and international gambling research organisations**

Gambling Research Australia ([www.gamblingresearch.org.au](http://www.gamblingresearch.org.au))  
Sydney University's Gambling Research Unit ([www.psych.usyd.edu.au/gambling](http://www.psych.usyd.edu.au/gambling));  
Problem Gambling Research and Treatment Centre at Melbourne University (web site under construction – see [http://uninews.unimelb.edu.au/articleid\\_4675.html](http://uninews.unimelb.edu.au/articleid_4675.html));  
Problem Gambling South Australia, ([www.problemgambling.sa.gov.au](http://www.problemgambling.sa.gov.au));  
Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre ([www.gamblingresearch.org](http://www.gamblingresearch.org)).  
Gambling Support Program, Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services  
[www.tas.gov.au/gambling](http://www.tas.gov.au/gambling)

The Australian National Association for Gambling Studies ([www.nags.org.au](http://www.nags.org.au)) convenes an annual conference where current research is presented. A similar conference is held annually in New Zealand, convened by the Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand. ([www.pgfnz.co.nz/2008conference/index.htm](http://www.pgfnz.co.nz/2008conference/index.htm)).