

A NATIONAL GAMBLING REPORTING SYSTEM FOR AUSTRALIA

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Abstract:

The Australian Gambling Research Centre has designed a National Gambling Reporting System (NGRS) for piloting. The aim of the NGRS is to:

- provide ongoing and systematic information on key aspects of gambling consumption and related harms for selected sentinel populations that could be analysed, interpreted and disseminated on an annual basis at state and national levels;
- identify and monitor important gambling trends and emerging issues that require further investigation or a timely strategic response; and
- inform the development and implementation of relevant gambling prevention policies and early intervention programs.

The sentinel population of gamblers selected for the pilot study is regular electronic gambling machine (EGM) users, given that among all forms of gambling, EGMs are most strongly associated with harm. In order to monitor gambling activities and harms experienced by this group, the pilot system has adopted methods from the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS). It is proposed that the pilot NGRS would collect and analyse data from three main sources including:

- a quantitative survey of regular EGM users;
- structured interviews with key experts who have regular contact with EGM users, and/or specialised knowledge of gambling; and
- a collation of existing relevant secondary indicator data on gambling such as gambling expenditure and treatment data.

This presentation will showcase a new system that has the potential to inform improved policy and regulation of gambling in Australia. It may be of interest to users of the IDRS and EDRS as well as those seeking to understand the state of the gambling evidence in Australia.

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