

## **Gambling survey will measure gambling patterns and harms in the NT**

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Menzies School of Health Research (Menzies) will partner with Roy Morgan Research to conduct a survey on behalf of the Northern Territory Government to research patterns of gambling, problem gambling risk, harms from gambling and the health and wellbeing of Territorians.

The survey will update the 2015 survey and will inform the Northern Territory Government and service providers to develop policies and programs aimed at reducing gambling-related harm in the Territory.

Project Manager and senior research fellow at Menzies, Dr Matt Stevens, explained there has been several important gambling policy changes since the 2015 survey

“In 2015 the then government increased the cap on pokies in pubs from 10 to 20 and in clubs from 45 to 55. Prior to the 2015 survey there was also a change to the way people could load money into pokies, with note acceptors being progressively installed on machines since 2014, replacing the old coin acceptors. The note acceptors allow people to insert up to \$1000 into the machine, while previously they were only able to insert up to \$250 in \$1 coins.”

Gambling policy in Australia has shifted towards public health approaches, with harm minimisation now a primary aim of gambling policy.

“It is increasingly important that we understand all the harms arising from gambling, whether it is harm to the gambler because of their own gambling, or harm experienced because of someone else’s gambling. It is these indirect harms from a third party’s gambling that we need to better understand, and how these are impacting people’s social and emotional wellbeing.

“The 2018 survey will focus on the harms arising from gambling, as well as measuring Territorians attitudes towards gambling. said Dr Stevens.

The survey is funded by the Northern Territory Government Community Benefit Fund, through a 10% tax on pokies in pubs and casinos and is expected to conduct interviews with around 5,000 Territorians from October to December.

The results will be summarised in a report written for the NT Government and made available on the Menzies and Northern Territory Government Department of Attorney-General and Justice website’s.

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### **Media note:**

For more information on the survey visit [2018 Northern Territory Gambling Prevalence and Wellbeing Survey](#).

[The Northern Territory Community Benefit Fund](#) provides funding support for gambling-related research and amelioration programs concerned with problem gambling, as well as Community Benefit grants which provide assistance for general community development and improvement purposes.

[Dr Matthew Stevens](#) is a multidisciplinary researcher and statistician. His current research focus is on public health approaches to addictive behaviours including gambling and alcohol.

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**Menzies Background**

Menzies School of Health Research is Australia's leading medical research institute dedicated to improving Indigenous, global and tropical health. We have a 30 year history of scientific discovery and public health achievement. Menzies works at the frontline, joining with partners across the Asia-Pacific as well as Indigenous communities across northern and central Australia. We collaborate to create new knowledge, grow local skills and find enduring solutions to problems that matter.