

# Taking action on problem gambling

## Action area 7: Fostering gambling research

Office of Gaming and Racing



***Taking action on problem gambling* is the Government's five year strategy to combat problem gambling in Victoria. The strategy includes initiatives totalling \$132 million and is an integrated approach to consumer protection and the prevention, early intervention and treatment of problem gambling. The strategy identifies seven priority action areas that the Government will act on to reduce problem gambling and its effects on Victoria.**

**This statement builds on the Government's record of achievement in addressing problem gambling, including the introduction of regional caps and the removal of gaming machines from vulnerable areas, eliminating all 24-hour gaming venues outside the casino, banning smoking in gaming machine areas, restricting gaming venue signage and banning gaming machine advertising.**

### **Action area 7: Fostering gambling research**

Sound research is critical to the development of policies and actions that respond to the harm caused by problem gambling. The Government's approach is to strengthen and better link gambling research to gambling policy development to ensure policies are relevant, evidence-based and effective.

\$7.2 million will be invested over five years in the *Victorian Gambling Research Agenda*, (an increase of \$2.2 million over five years).

#### **Key initiatives in this action area are:**

- A \$1.2 million investment in a sustained epidemiological study of the various forms of gambling available in Victoria to better understand how problem gambling develops.
- \$3 million funding for the *Independent Gambling Research Grants Program* which aims to re-invigorate gambling research by encouraging participation and input from a range of disciplines.
- \$1.2 million towards continued support of Gambling Research Australia through the provision of research secretariat services.
- \$2 million to invest in research on emerging and strategic gambling issues to encourage well-informed, evidence-based debate on these issues and inform Government consideration of regulatory and policy issues that arise.
- The Government will maintain a close connection between policy and research by retaining the role of the Responsible Gambling Ministerial Advisory Council in informing future research agendas.

Further information on *Taking action on problem gambling* can be obtained from the Department of Justice website [www.justice.vic.gov.au](http://www.justice.vic.gov.au).