

# A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO GAMBLING AND ALCOHOL HARM PREVENTION

## The problem

Both gambling and alcohol-related harms are **significant public health issues in Australia** and globally. In 2016-17, Australians lost \$23.7 billion on gambling products (equal to \$1,251 for each adult), the highest per capita gambling losses in the world. For alcohol, an estimated \$14.9 billion is spent by Australian households each year (or \$1600 per household annually). Gambling and alcohol harm impact both directly and indirectly on a range of health and social issues. These include mental health problems, substance use disorders, suicide, criminal charges (economic, violence and drug related) and domestic violence.

In Australia, joint gambling and alcohol consumption is prolific in community settings through popular local clubs and pubs. A **practical approach is required** to examine the **interaction of multiple risk products in uniquely Australian environments where harm occurs**. This will provide important knowledge around the interplay of risk factors and subsequent harms. This investigation is particularly important in Australia as community venues like pubs and clubs are embedded into social rituals and practices, particularly in regional areas.

## Examples of projects

- Examining the impact of COVID-19 on alcohol and gambling behaviours in Australia
- Supporting the implementation of a gambling screening tool in community organisations
- Exploring the use of child-led research methods in gambling and alcohol harm prevention research
- Understanding alcohol and gambling harm in communities

## Interested in this work?

Contact Dr Amy Bestman to discuss potential projects: [abestman@georgeinstitute.org.au](mailto:abestman@georgeinstitute.org.au)

