



Northern Territory Branch AUSTRALIAN HOTELS ASSOCIATION



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STATEMENT: NT Gambling Prevalence and Wellbeing Study

The Menzies School of Health Research has released the results of the 2015 NT Gambling Prevalence and Wellbeing Study, which showed that as compared to 2005 levels, the percentage of 'problem gamblers' (who were regular gamblers) has significantly reduced, by 37%.

The participation rate in gambling on Electronic Gaming Machines (**EGMs**), including Casinos, had also reduced by 16%. However, sports betting and race track betting saw a significant increase over this period (up 46% and 19% respectively).

The AHA (NT), which represents pubs and community clubs with EGM services, is hopeful that this decline in 'problem gamblers' will continue, with funding by the Community Benefit Fund (**CBF**) being directed towards a significant upskilling training and compliance project for hospitality staff involved in gaming.

"Research from health advocates tell us that responsible gambling and harm minimisation interventions, as well as establishing direct links between problem gamblers and gambling and financial support services such as Amity, Anglicare, Somerville and Catholic-Care, work most effectively at the point of sale, or in this case within close proximity to EGMs," said AHA (NT) Chief Executive Officer, Des Crowe.

"That is why the AHA (NT), through funding from the CBF, has undertaken a significant NT-wide upskilling training and compliance project that for the past 12 months has delivered face to face training, as well as webinars to over 400 hospitality staff in 65 venues, in order implement responsible gambling services.

"This Project has seen visible improvements in culture and venue policies and processes, including the development of regional networks to discuss gambling related matters, linkages between community support agencies and venues in all regional centres of the NT and active promotion and support of community support agency roles and services within venues," said Mr. Crowe.

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