Participant Information Sheet

2014 Survey on Gambling, Health and Wellbeing in the ACT

About the research team

- This research is being conducted by the Centre for Gambling Research, at the Australian National University (ANU). The ANU asked Wallis Consulting to undertake telephone interviews for this project.

About the project

- The survey updates a previous Canberra study on gambling (2009), and will provide the ACT government with an up-to-date description of gambling participation, problems and service use in the ACT.
- The research involves telephone interviews with more than 8,000 adults residing in ACT households.
- The project is funded by the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission, which is an independent statutory body responsible for regulation of gambling and racing activities in the ACT.
- The results will be summarised in a report written for the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission. Research findings, including this report, will be available on ANU’s Centre for Gambling Research website: http://sociology.cass.anu.edu.au/centre-gambling-research. The findings from the research will also be published in academic journal articles, mentioned in student reports/theses and presented at conferences.

What does the research involve for you?

- The survey asks questions about health, wellbeing and attitudes towards gambling from everyone, regardless of whether they gamble or not.
- Taking part is voluntary, you can stop, skip questions or have your responses deleted at any stage during the interview. If you decide to withdraw during the interview your data will be deleted automatically.
- The interview could take just 5 minutes or it could take up to 20 minutes depending upon your circumstances. Arrangements can be made to do the interview at a time that is convenient for you.
- The interview will not be recorded, with your answers simply stored as numeric codes. However, 5% of interviews will be monitored for quality purposes. You will be given the opportunity to refuse the monitoring of your interview or not.
- Whether you decide to be interviewed or not, this will not affect your current or future access to any service providers.

Why was I selected?

- Phone numbers for this survey are selected using a process that generates telephone numbers at random from across the whole of the ACT. This is how your household was selected for the study.
- We want to make sure our sample represents adults in the ACT community. To achieve this we randomly select one person from each household on the basis of their date of birth. This is why we ask to speak to the person aged 18 years or over in your household who had the most recent birthday.
How is my confidentiality protected?

- The information you provide will be handled with care and we will treat all information you provide in strict confidence as far as allowed by law.
- On completion of the interview, you will be asked if you are willing to be contacted for future gambling-related research conducted by the ANU. This is completely voluntary.
- Wallis Consulting will separate any contact details you provide from your survey responses before sending your data to the ANU. Wallis Consulting will then delete your information. Only the ANU research team will then have access to this information and you will only be contacted for their research purposes.
- You can change your mind and have your contact details deleted at any time by contacting the ANU Project Manager. You can also have your data deleted at any stage until it becomes processed (the results are written up and published).
- The research findings will not reveal the identity of any of the people who are interviewed for the study, nor report any answers or comments given by individual respondents. All the results will be presented in the form of summary statistics.

What happens to my data?

- The information from your interview will be kept in a secure place and protected by password when at Wallis Consulting and then at the University.
- At the ANU, your contact information will be securely stored separate from your survey answers. They can only be identified by a unique identification number.
- The University is required to keep the data for at least five years after we publish any findings. However, by comparing the findings with future surveys we can look at how gambling changes over time in the ACT. So the data will prove useful, and be kept securely, for a much longer time period.

Queries, concerns and support

- If you would like to contact the researchers about any aspect of this study, you can telephone the ANU research team on 1800 251 880 (freecall). You can also email the Project Manager, Tanya Davidson (Tanya.Davidson@anu.edu.au) or contact the research team by post (Centre for Gambling Research, The Australian National University, Canberra, ACT 2601).
- Counselling information and support for gambling related problems is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by phoning 1800 858 858 (freecall) and via an online service http://www.gamblinghelponline.org.au/. A more detailed list of support services is also available on this website.

Ethical concerns and queries:
The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee. If you have any concerns or complaints about how this research has been conducted, please contact:

Ethics Manager, The ANU Human Research Ethics Committee, The Australian National University Telephone: +61 2 6125 3427 Email: Human.Ethics Officer@anu.edu.au