

Minimising Gambling  
Harm in South Australia:  
Investment Plan 2021–26

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# Strategic Research Agenda

Funding Submission  
Guidelines

Funded through  
the Gamblers  
Rehabilitation Fund



Government  
of South Australia



human  
services

# Introduction

Preventing and minimising gambling harm is a South Australian Government priority.

On 12 December 2019 State Parliament passed legislation to significantly reform gambling in South Australia. For the first time in South Australia’s history, these changes mandated investment under the Gamblers Rehabilitation Fund to include prevention, early intervention, public education and gambling research.

## The [Gambling Harm Minimisation Investment Plan 2021–26](#)

(Investment Plan) released in November 2021 seeks to operationalise these legislative changes. It describes four strategic priorities identified by key stakeholders in the South Australian gambling landscape as essential for preventing and minimising gambling harm. These are:



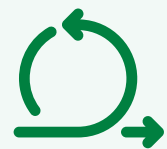
South Australians recognise gambling harm and know how to help



Preventing and intervening early in gambling harm



People get the right support at the right time



An agile system equipped to identify, prevent and respond to emerging harm and need.

The Office for Problem Gambling in the Department of Human Services (DHS) is responsible for implementing the Investment Plan. Included in the Investment Plan is a commitment to develop a Strategic Research Agenda.

# The Strategic Research Agenda

The Strategic Research Agenda 2022 to 2026 describes research areas of interest to DHS aligned to the Investment Plan. The Strategic Research Agenda aims to:



## build the evidence

for what works to prevent and minimise gambling harm in South Australia



## foster growth

of the gambling research community in South Australia



allow for **testing of novel ideas** in prevention and harm minimisation



## usefully inform

policy development, regulatory action, and practice.

The Strategic Research Agenda is intended to guide potential research partners towards projects that provide timely, practical advice for government, local communities, public and private sectors to help achieve reductions in gambling harm.

# Priority research areas

The priority research areas identified under the Strategic Research Agenda are:

- 1** | South Australians' awareness of risky gambling behaviours, how risky behaviours lead to harm and strategies to intervene
- 2** | Protective factors that prevent and minimise the risk of gambling harm
- 3** | Overcoming barriers to help-seeking and maintaining positive change
- 4** | Enhancing resources and support for people impacted by others' risky gambling
- 5** | Preventing and minimising harm from gambling products, related technologies.

# Research priorities, policy and practice objectives, and suggested research topics

The policy and practice objectives informed by each priority research area are described in the following tables. The tables also identify possible research topics within each priority research area. DHS will consider other research topics beyond those listed where the applicant can demonstrate clear alignment to one or more research priority areas identified under the Strategic Research Agenda.

■ Research priority    
 □ Policy and practice objective    
 □ Suggested research topics

## 1 South Australians' awareness of risky gambling behaviours, how risky behaviours lead to harm and strategies to intervene

Improve South Australians' recognition of gambling harm	Educate the community about practical ways to intervene in gambling harm
What do South Australians know about the early signs of risky gambling behaviour, harm and how to intervene?	What strategies are most likely to result in South Australians intervening early (i.e., before crisis) in risky gambling and harm?
What works in a South Australian context to challenge and change public stigma surrounding people experiencing gambling harm – including in mainstream, CALD, Indigenous and regional communities?	What works to educate South Australia's emerging migrant and refugee communities about risky gambling and harm?

## 2 Protective factors that prevent and minimise the risk of harm

Deliver strategies intended to prevent gambling harm among at risk cohorts	Support South Australian professionals to intervene early in gambling harm
How do South Australian (at-risk) adolescents talk with their peers about risky gambling products, pathways to gambling harm and protective behaviours?	What does effective early intervention look like inside a gaming room?
What is the best way for adults to talk with children and adolescents about gambling harm and risky gambling products?	How do we best support community organisations and relevant professionals to recognise and respond to gambling harm?
What strengths within Aboriginal culture protect communities, individuals and children from risky gambling and harm – and how do we harness them?	When making a referral, how can professionals and community organisations maximise the likelihood of people harmed by gambling seeking help?

### 3 Overcoming barriers to help-seeking and maintaining positive change

Identify and remove systemic barriers to help-seeking in South Australia	Sustain reductions made in gambling harm
Self-help – what works, for whom and in what circumstances in South Australia?	Why do South Australian gambling help clients drop out of treatment and what works to retain them?
What are the self-help needs of people severely harmed versus those who experience only minor harms?	What impact does sharing lived experience have on sustaining recovery and encouraging help-seeking by people harmed by gambling?

### 4 Enhancing resources and support for people impacted by others' risky gambling

Support affected others to encourage help-seeking	Support loved ones to engage in self-care
How do we identify affected others of non-help seeking gamblers so we can better target information and resources?	What works in culturally and linguistically diverse communities to support loved ones who are experiencing gambling harm?
What practical strategies enable affected others to successfully encourage help seeking by risky gamblers?	What works to improve wellbeing among those affected by a loved one's risky gambling?

### 5 Preventing and minimising harm from gambling products, related technologies and contexts

Create environments that minimise the risk of harm	Identify, prevent and respond to emerging harm
What are the best practice characteristics of gambling environments that operate effectively to minimise harm?	What do South Australians understand about the link between gambling product features and risk of experiencing gambling harm?
How do we best support community organisations to create environments that prevent and minimise gambling harm?	What emerging gambling products and related technologies do gamblers, academics and help services believe present significant risk to the South Australian community and why?

# Implementation

DHS will call for research project proposals aligned to the Strategic Research Agenda once in each financial year.

When calling for research project proposals, DHS will nominate one or more priority research areas as a key focus for that year. Proposals aligned to the nominated priority research area/s will be considered favourably when evaluating responses and allocating funding.

Nominating a key focus area/s each year is not intended to prevent applicants from submitting proposals aligned to other priority research areas identified under the Strategic Research Agenda.

## Who can apply?

DHS encourages applications from researchers across a diverse range of disciplines, fields and contexts. Collaborative partnerships are highly regarded, for instance between academics and industry, the not-for-profit sector and/or private sector.

Investment under the Strategic Research Agenda aims to foster growth of the gambling research community in South Australia.

Research project proposals involving locally based researchers or research students will be looked upon favourably.

Projects involving early career researchers are also strongly encouraged.

## What type of research projects are we interested in?

Investment under the Strategic Research Agenda seeks to support diverse research methodologies and approaches such as academic and applied research studies, literature reviews, data analysis and data linkage studies, pilots and trials to test feasibility, and program evaluations.

It is important to demonstrate how the project aligns to one or more of the priority research areas identified in the Strategic Research Agenda. It is also important to show how the project will inform policy development, effective regulatory action, and/or facilitate evidence-based practice in preventing and minimising gambling harm in South Australia.

## Funding

Funding for individual projects will be capped at \$60,000 (exclusive GST). A maximum of \$180,000 (exclusive GST) per financial year will be available under the Strategic Research Agenda.

## How to apply

Applicants must have an account on the Tenders SA website. DHS will release the Invitation to Supply (ITS) package under UNSPSC 93131703 *Research Programs*. Account holders may elect to receive automated notification emails of new ITS packages released by DHS each financial year.

Once the ITS opens each year, you will need to download and complete the ITS package from the [Tenders SA](#) website. The research proposal must address each of the evaluation criteria as requested in the included Response document.

## Sample assessment criteria

All research project proposals will be considered against the published evaluation criteria as nominated in the ITS package released each year.

Specific criteria may change between invitations but are expected to align with the following areas, noting that these are included here as a general indication only. They are not intended to commit DHS to considering submissions in this fashion.

### Research merit

The extent to which the research proposal:

- outlines clear research questions and an appropriate research design and methodology to answer those questions
- has an achievable project scope, methodology, deliverables and timeline
- considers potential ethical issues and risks that might arise when conducting the research project and identifies mitigation strategies

- requires in-kind assistance from DHS or key partners (e.g., gambling help service providers) and potential impact on DHS and/or key partner staff workloads.

### Experience and expertise

The extent to which the research proposal:

- demonstrates understanding of and responsiveness to the existing body of relevant literature and research, including where the proposal builds or improves on research previously funded under the Strategic Research Agenda (if relevant)
- brings together a project team with the appropriate skills to ensure success and builds capability and capacity in the South Australian gambling research sector
- will be managed by an organisation with an established track record in delivering similar projects, with appropriate governance arrangements
- involves collaborative partnerships, for instance between academics and industry or service providers.

### Strategic benefit

The extent to which the research proposal:

- aligns to one or more of the priority research areas identified by the Strategic Research Agenda, priority will be given to proposals aligned to the nominated focus area for the relevant year
- will inform policy development, effective regulatory action, and/or facilitate evidence-based practice in preventing and minimising gambling harm in South Australia
- identifies the anticipated benefit of the project to the South Australian community, including its potential impact and who specifically will benefit from the project outcomes
- offers value for money and appropriate use of government funds and is based on realistic cost estimates.

## Eligibility

To be considered for funding a proposal needs to:

- be submitted by an organisation with an ABN
- align to one or more of the priority research areas identified by the Strategic Research Agenda
- have obtained (or commenced seeking) full Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) approval for the project (where relevant), or present a clear argument for why HREC approval is not required
- be for a project with a fixed timeline and specific outcomes.

### Exclusions

Funding proposals for infrastructure or capital expenditure, or for operational or recurring costs including permanent staffing will not be considered.

Current DHS staff and employees of gambling help services funded through the Gamblers Rehabilitation Fund are not eligible to apply.

Researchers are not eligible to apply for funding to continue an existing project beyond the contracted period.

## Reporting requirements

The research team will be expected to meet regularly (once every 12 weeks at a minimum) with DHS to provide updates on the progress of their project. This can be in person or online.

Research scheduled to take less than 12 months will be required to provide a draft and final outcomes report at completion of the project.

Research scheduled to take 12 months or longer will be required to provide progress reports (at 6-month intervals) and a draft and final outcomes report at completion of the project.

The final research outcomes report must describe the research question/s, methodology and results. It must also consider the potential practical application of the research findings and identify those South Australians most likely to benefit from the research findings. The final report must be:

- no more than 30 pages in length (excluding references and appendices)
- written in a style easily understood by a lay audience
- provided in a format that can be published on the Office for Problem Gambling (OPG) website ([problemgambling.sa.gov.au](http://problemgambling.sa.gov.au)).

The final report must also include a summary of the purpose, key findings and practical application of the research (no more than 100 words) for publication on the OPG website.



## Funding conditions

Funding for the research project will be provided on the following conditions:

- HREC approval being obtained (where relevant)
- researchers immediately report anything that might warrant review of ethical approval of the project (e.g., adverse or unexpected events, early termination of research, and variations, extensions or modifications to the research protocol, methods, tools, and/or survey or interview questions)
- researchers agree that any research funded under the Strategic Research Agenda may only be published by the authors subject to peer review and subject to the satisfaction of DHS
- publicise the funding from DHS in relevant publications, media or other material, as applicable.

Researchers funded under the Strategic Research Agenda will be engaged via a Standard Goods and Services Agreement. Payments will be linked to project milestones and outcomes, with the payment format to be negotiated with the successful researcher.

## More information

For more information regarding the Strategic Research Agenda please contact the Office for Problem Gambling: [officeforproblemgambling@sa.gov.au](mailto:officeforproblemgambling@sa.gov.au)

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