



Australian  
National  
University



PUBLIC OPINION ON GAMBLING  
ANUpoll JULY 2011



# VICE-CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

Australians are known worldwide for their love of gambling, from 'two-up', to horse racing and poker machines. Yet gambling causes major personal and economic problems for some people and their families. For regulators, there are few issues in public policy that raise more dilemmas.

This – the tenth ANUpoll in the series – examines gambling within Australian society. It asks how frequently people gamble and how they view regulation, what they think about gambling problems and potential sources of assistance for problem gambling.

The results suggest that there is a widespread recognition that gambling is harmful for some people. Australians support at least some degree of government regulation.

As a public policy issue, gambling presents a classic dilemma: how do you regulate an activity that causes problems for some people, but that is widely enjoyed?

Like previous ANUpolls, this study sheds new light on public opinion about a major policy topic that will shape Australia's development. The survey fulfils the University's mission of addressing topics of national importance.

I have faith that this ANUpoll will contribute to a greater understanding of the issues surrounding Australia's gambling debate.

## **Professor Ian Young**

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Photo by Belinda Pratten

# ANUpoll

## Public opinion on gambling

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## ABOUT THE SURVEY

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The *ANUpoll* is conducted for The Australian National University by the Social Research Centre, Melbourne. The survey is a national random sample of the adult population aged 18 years and over conducted by telephone. In this survey, 1,213 people were interviewed between 27 April 2011 and 10 May 2011, with a response rate of 32.8 per cent. The results have been weighted to represent the national population. The survey's margin of error is  $\pm 2.5$  per cent. Full details of the survey can be found at [www.anu.edu.au/anupoll](http://www.anu.edu.au/anupoll) and the data are available from the Australian Social Science Data Archive ([www.assda.edu.au](http://www.assda.edu.au))

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## KEY POINTS SUMMARY

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### Gambling participation in Australia

- > Approximately one quarter of respondents did not gamble at all, and another quarter bought lottery or scratch tickets but did not participate in any other form of gambling.
- > Nearly half the respondents gambled on an activity other than lottery or scratch tickets, with around 7 per cent doing so on four or more days per month.
- > Compared to the rest of the adult population, people who gamble on activities other than lottery or scratch tickets are more likely to be male and young. People who gamble on any activity, including lottery or scratch tickets, are more likely to have lower levels of education.

### Consequences of gambling and regulation

- > The public generally believes there are adverse consequences from gambling, is supportive of some degree of government regulation, but does not support banning gambling altogether.
- > There was considerable support, even among people who gamble frequently, for the idea that people should be limited to spending an amount they nominate before they start gambling.
- > Less than half the respondents thought gambling activities are advertised responsibly and only a third thought that gambling regulations are properly enforced.

### Types of activity and help-seeking

- > People most often associated gambling problems with poker machines followed by gambling on horse and greyhound races and table games at a casino.
- > A large proportion (61 per cent) of respondents said they would know where to turn to get help for gambling problems. However, a substantial proportion (39 per cent) said they would not know where to go.
- > Counsellors, mental health specialists and telephone helplines were most often considered as helpful for problem gambling, whereas family doctors and self-help guides were viewed less favourably.

### Characteristics of people with gambling problems

- > Problem gambling is associated, in the public mind, with alcohol abuse, suicide, marital problems, parental neglect and being less compassionate.
- > Attitudes likely to be conducive to stigma and discrimination against people with gambling problems are evident in the community.

### Likely causes of problem gambling

- > Having an addictive personality and mixing with people who gamble a lot were seen as likely causes of problem gambling.
- > There was little difference between people who gamble often and non-gamblers in terms of these opinions.

### Key trends: most important problems and political mood

- > Immigration and the economy/jobs are viewed by the public as the most important problems facing Australia, with 20 per cent mentioning immigration and 18 per cent mentioning the economy/jobs.
- > A large majority of Australians are satisfied with the way the country is heading.
- > Dissatisfaction with the country's direction is most associated with concerns about better government and immigration, while satisfaction is most associated with concerns about the environment.

# INTRODUCTION

Public opinion about gambling is of interest for several reasons.

First, the attitudes of the public may affect the desire and ability of governments to implement legislation relating to the regulation of gambling activity. In Australia, gambling reforms are currently under review. Recommended changes include the introduction of mandatory pre-commitment schemes, requiring all players of high intensity poker machines to pre-set a spending limit before they play<sup>2</sup>. Responsible advertising of gambling activities, particularly during sporting events, has also recently been debated and received considerable media attention.

Second, public attitudes and beliefs may affect the likelihood that appropriate treatment is received by people with gambling problems. For example, knowledge about treatments or services that are available for gambling problems may be limited and beliefs about the helpfulness of specific treatments or service providers may be misplaced. Furthermore, negative attitudes towards people with gambling problems may compound feelings of helplessness and reluctance to seek help.

A third important reason for investigating public opinion about gambling is that certain attitudes and beliefs may increase the likelihood that individuals engage in one or more forms of gambling, or do so more often. For example, the perception that gambling is 'part of being Australian' may be associated with an increased likelihood of experimenting with gambling and, perhaps, developing a problem with gambling among vulnerable individuals.

The ANUpoll on gambling was designed to address public opinion concerning four aspects of gambling, namely: (1) the consequences of gambling and gambling regulation; (2) types of gambling activities and help-seeking; (3) characteristics of people with gambling problems; and (4) the likely causes of problem gambling. Questions were also included to provide information about respondents' own levels of gambling participation.

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<sup>2</sup>Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform (2011). *First report. The design and implementation of a mandatory pre-commitment system for electronic gambling machines*. Parliament House, Canberra.

# GAMBLING PARTICIPATION IN AUSTRALIA

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## **Key points**

- > Approximately one quarter of respondents did not gamble at all, and another quarter bought lottery or scratch tickets but did not participate in any other form of gambling.
- > Nearly half the respondents gambled on an activity other than lottery or scratch tickets, with around 7 per cent doing so on four or more days per month.
- > Compared to the rest of the adult population, people who gamble on activities other than lottery or scratch tickets are more likely to be male and young. People who gamble on any activity, including lottery or scratch tickets, are more likely to have lower levels of education.



A goal of the ANUpoll on gambling was to investigate how public beliefs about gambling related to actual gambling participation. In order to assess levels of gambling participation, respondents were presented with a list of gambling activities. They were then asked 'Thinking about all of these activities, on approximately how many days each month did you gamble in the last 12 months?' People were also asked how often they had purchased lottery or scratch tickets during the last 12 months.

A total of 28 per cent of the adult population did not participate in any form of gambling, 24 per cent had only bought lottery or scratch tickets, and 48 per cent had gambled on another activity, such as poker machines, horse or greyhound races, or table games at a casino.

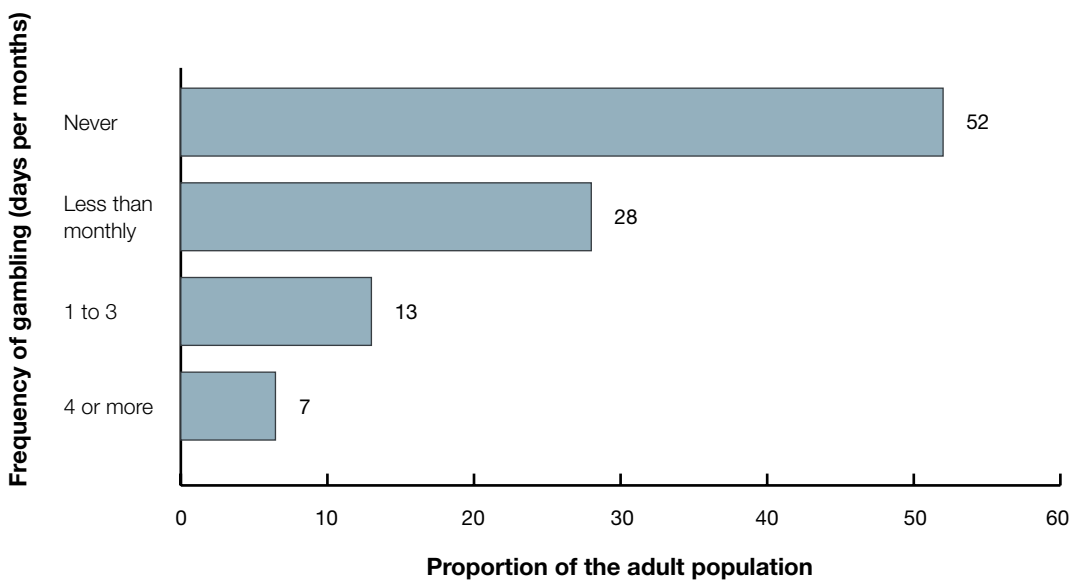
These participation rates are generally consistent with previous Australian surveys, but direct comparisons are difficult because different questions have been used across surveys.

When considering gambling participation across socio-demographic groups, women formed a narrow majority among non-gamblers (52 per cent) and those who gambled only on lottery or scratch tickets (59 per cent). A greater proportion of people who gambled on activities other than lottery or scratch tickets were men (54 per cent).

Non-gamblers tended to have higher levels of education than both gambling groups and non-gamblers and people gambling only on lottery or scratch tickets tended to be older than those who gambled on activities other than lottery or scratch tickets.

Characteristics	Non-Gamblers		Gamblers	
		%	Only lottery/scratch tickets	Other gambling activities
		%	%	%
<b>Gender</b>				
Male		48	41	54
Female		52	59	46
Total		100	100	100
<b>Age</b>				
18-24		14	7	19
25-34		16	14	19
35-44		20	15	14
45-54		19	22	20
55-64		12	20	11
65-74		11	14	11
75 or over		8	7	5
Total		100	100	100
<b>Educational qualifications</b>				
Primary, secondary		34	46	45
Trade, diploma		20	25	25
Tertiary		46	30	30
Total		100	100	100
<b>(N)</b>		<b>(334)</b>	<b>(293)</b>	<b>(585)</b>

Focusing on activities other than lottery or scratch tickets, 52 per cent of respondents reported that they had not gambled during the past 12 months, 28 per cent had gambled less than monthly, 13 per cent had gambled one to three days per month, and 7 per cent had gambled 4 or more days per month.



We would now like to ask you about your gambling activities. These include betting on (i) poker machines or gaming machines, (ii) horse or greyhound races, but not sweeps (iii) Keno, table games at a casino like Blackjack or Roulette, (iv) bingo or housie at a club or hall, (v) sporting or special events like football or a TV show, (vi) casino type games on the internet for money, (vii) Games like cards, mah-jong or snooker privately for money. Thinking about all of these activities, on approximately how many days **each month** did you gamble in the last 12 months?

As is commonly found in Australian and international studies, men represented a large proportion (71 per cent) of people who gamble most frequently (on activities other than lottery or scratch tickets). In terms of age, approximately half of the respondents (45 per cent) gambling four or more times per month were aged 55 or more. While gamblers on the whole had higher levels of education than non-gamblers, level of education varied little across frequency of gambling.

	Frequency of gambling on activities other than lottery or scratch tickets		
	Less than monthly %	1 to 3 days per month %	4 or more days per month %
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	47	61	71
Female	53	39	29
Total	100	100	100
<b>Age</b>			
18-24	23	13	16
25-34	22	20	2
35-44	15	14	12
45-54	20	20	25
55-64	9	14	19
65-74	8	15	16
75 or over	4	5	10
Total	100	100	100
<b>Educational qualifications</b>			
Primary, secondary	47	41	45
Trade, diploma	23	29	24
Tertiary	30	31	31
Total	100	100	100
<b>(N)</b>	<b>(343)</b>	<b>(159)</b>	<b>(84)</b>

It is important to note that these findings investigated levels of gambling activity rather than levels of problem gambling. However, frequency of gambling and risk of problem gambling are correlated and similar associations with demographic variables have been observed in general population studies of problem gambling. For example, a recent survey conducted in the Australian Capital Territory found that people with gambling problems are more likely to be male, young and less well educated<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>3</sup>Davidson T. & Rodgers B. (2010). *The 2009 Survey of the Nature and Extent of Gambling, and Problem Gambling, in the Australian Capital Territory*. Australian National University: Canberra.

# CONSEQUENCES OF GAMBLING AND REGULATION

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## **Key points**

- > The public generally believes there are adverse consequences from gambling, is supportive of some degree of government regulation, but does not support banning gambling altogether.
- > There was considerable support, even among people who gamble frequently, for the idea that people should be limited to spending an amount they nominate before they start gambling.
- > Less than half the respondents thought gambling activities are advertised responsibly and only a third thought that gambling regulations are properly enforced.

Respondents were asked to give their opinion on a series of statements concerning the nature of gambling, the consequences of gambling and the regulation of gambling activities. Several of these statements were taken from a measure of attitudes towards gambling recently developed by researchers in the United Kingdom<sup>4</sup>.

Most respondents believed that there are too many opportunities for gambling nowadays (84 per cent), that gambling is dangerous for family life (80 per cent), and that gambling should be discouraged (69 per cent). Few respondents believed that gambling had benefits, for example, 'livening up life' (23 per cent).

At the same time, most respondents (68 per cent) disagreed with the statement that 'gambling should be banned altogether' and two-thirds of respondents believed that people should have the right to gamble whenever they want.

General beliefs	Per cent agree	Regulation	Per cent agree
There are too many opportunities for gambling nowadays	84	People should be limited to spending an amount they nominate before they start gambling	74
Gambling is dangerous for family life	80	Gambling in Australia should be more tightly controlled	70
Gambling should be discouraged	69	Gambling activities are advertised responsibly	46
People should have the right to gamble whenever they want	67	The government has no right to restrict a person's gambling	42
Most people who gamble do so sensibly	40	Gambling laws in Australia are properly enforced	38
It would be better if gambling was banned altogether	24		
Gambling livens up life	23		
On balance, gambling is good for society	16		

The next statements are things people have said about gambling. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each one. (If agree) Do you strongly agree, or agree? (If disagree) Do you strongly disagree or disagree? Estimates reflect the proportion of respondents who agree and strongly agree.

<sup>4</sup>Orford, J., Griffiths, M., Wardle, H., et al. Negative public attitudes towards gambling: findings from the 2007 British Gambling Prevalence Survey using a new attitude scale. *International Gambling Studies* 2009, 9: 39-54.

In terms of gambling regulation, a majority of respondents believed that gambling in Australia should be more tightly controlled (70 per cent). Less than half the respondents (46 per cent) believed that gambling activities are advertised responsibly and only 38 per cent believed that gambling laws in Australia are properly enforced.

More than one quarter of respondents (27 per cent) reported that they did not know whether gambling laws were properly enforced. This finding may reflect the complexity of gambling regulation. It may also simply reflect a lack of knowledge about how gambling regulations are enforced. Otherwise 'don't know' was an uncommon response to questions in this survey.

Three quarters of respondents agreed that people should be limited to spending an amount they nominate before they start gambling. This finding is important because gambling reforms are currently being considered. Recommended reforms include requiring people who gamble on high intensity poker machines to pre-commit to a spending limit.

As might be expected, respondents' opinions about the regulation of gambling activity were associated with their own levels of gambling activity. For example, respondents who gambled at least once per month were more likely to believe that the government has no right to restrict a person's gambling, and less likely to believe that gambling in Australia should be more tightly controlled, than non-gamblers. Even among the most frequent gamblers, however, a majority (67 per cent) were in favour of people nominating a spending limit before they start gambling.

Statement	Non-gamblers	Only lottery or scratch tickets	Activities other than lottery or scratch tickets		
			Less than monthly	1 to 3 days a month	4 or more days a month
	%	%	%	%	%
People should be limited to spending an amount they nominate before they start gambling	80	76	74	59	67
Gambling in Australia should be more tightly controlled	80	75	70	49	59
Gambling activities are advertised responsibly	34	45	51	59	58
The government has no right to restrict a person's gambling	33	43	41	60	51
Gambling laws in Australia are properly enforced	29	29	45	50	55

Estimates reflect the proportion of respondents who agree and strongly agree.

Frequency of gambling was also associated with beliefs about the potential benefits of gambling. When compared with respondents who never gambled or who gambled less than monthly, respondents who gambled (on an activity other than lottery or scratch tickets) at least once per month were more likely to believe that gambling 'liven up life' (37 per cent versus 20 per cent) – results not shown.

It is likely that people who gamble frequently rationalise their behaviour to some degree. However, people who hold more positive views about gambling and/or less negative views about the potential dangers of gambling have a greater risk for gambling problems<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>5</sup>Wardle H., Sproston K., Orford J., Griffiths M., Constantine R. & Pigott S. (2007). *British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2007*. National Centre for Social Research.

# TYPES OF ACTIVITY AND HELP-SEEKING

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## **Key points**

- > People most often associated gambling problems with poker machines followed by gambling on horse and greyhound races and table games at a casino.
- > A large proportion (61 percent) of respondents said they would know where to turn to get help for gambling problems. However, a substantial proportion (39 per cent) said they would not know where to go.
- > Counsellors, mental health specialists and telephone helplines were most often considered as helpful for problem gambling, whereas family doctors and self-help guides were viewed less favourably.



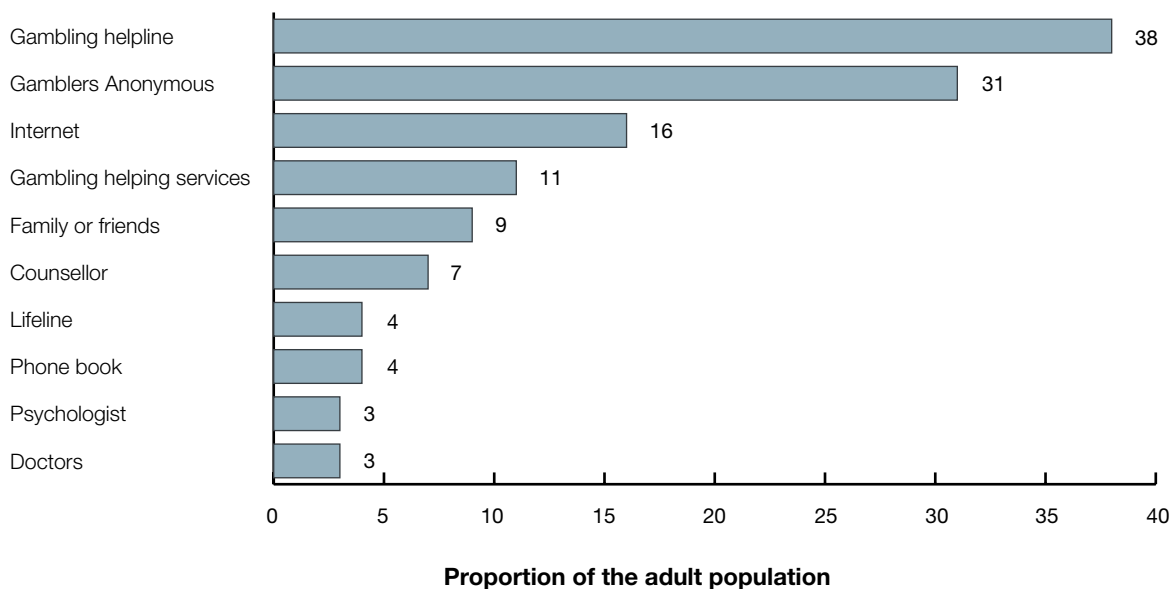
In order to determine the sorts of activities people have in mind when they think of 'problem gambling', respondents were given a list of possible gambling activities and asked to nominate which two they most often associated with gambling problems.

Type of activity	First mention %	Second mention %
Poker machines or gaming machines	69	14
Horse or greyhound races	14	45
Instant scratch tickets	0.3	1
Lottery tickets	1	3
Keno	0	1
Table games at a casino	9	16
Bingo or housie at a club or hall	0.2	0.1
Sporting or special events like football or a TV show	2	6
Casino type games on the internet for money	1	6
Games like cards, mahjong or snooker privately for money	1	2

'Thinking about all the activities I have mentioned, when people talk about gambling problems, what are the first two gambling activities you think of?'

The activity that respondents most often nominated first was poker or gaming machines (69 per cent), followed by horse or greyhound racing (14 per cent) and table games at a casino (9 per cent). The activities most often nominated second were horse or greyhound racing (45 per cent), table games at a casino (16 per cent) and poker or gaming machines (14 per cent).

The most frequently endorsed combination of activities was poker or gaming machines and horse or greyhound racing (40 per cent), followed by poker or gaming machines and table games at a casino (13 per cent) and horse or greyhound racing and poker or gaming machines (8 per cent). By contrast, people did not generally associate lottery or scratch tickets, bingo or card games with gambling problems.

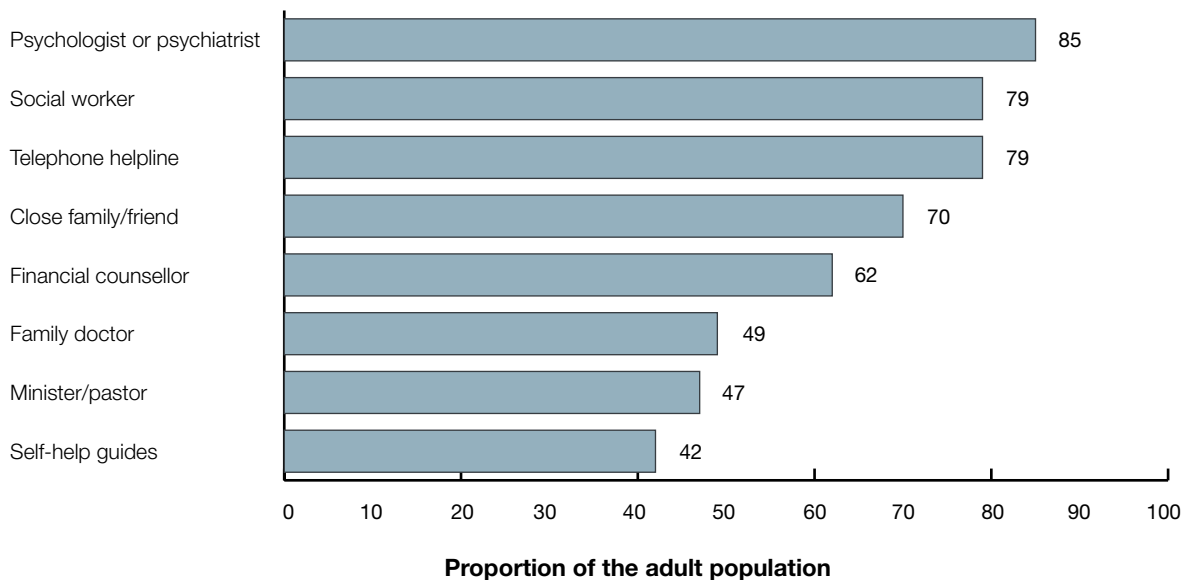


'If you or a member of your family had a problem with gambling, would you know where to turn to get help? Where would you go?' Estimates reflect the proportion of respondents who said that they would know where to go (n=723).

In order to assess knowledge about help-seeking for problem gambling, respondents were first asked whether they would know where to turn if they or a family member had a problem with gambling. In response to this question, a majority of the respondents (61 per cent) reported that they would know where to turn to get help. However, a substantial minority of respondents (39 per cent) reported that they would not know where to get help.

Respondents who indicated that they would know where to turn to get help were then asked where they would go for such help. They were free to nominate as many forms of help as they wanted. The types of help most often nominated by people who said they knew where they could turn were (i) a telephone helpline (38 per cent), Gamblers Anonymous (31 per cent) and the internet (16 per cent).

These resources were nominated by 23 per cent, 19 per cent and 10 per cent (respectively) of all respondents.



'If someone with gambling problems were to get help, how helpful or harmful would the following be? Would... be helpful, harmful or neither?' Estimates reflect the proportion of respondents reporting a resource to be helpful.

In order to further assess perceptions of help-seeking, respondents were asked whether each of a number of different people and resources would be helpful, harmful, or neither (helpful nor harmful) for someone with a gambling problem. For this question, eight options were included, ranging from medical specialists to family or friends and self-help guides.

Mental health specialists, namely, psychologists and psychiatrists (85 per cent) were the options most often considered likely to be helpful, followed by a telephone helpline and social workers (79 per cent each). A telephone helpline was also considered helpful by four out of five respondents. People were more ambivalent about the potential benefits of doctors (49 per cent) and self-help guides (42 per cent).

People who gamble frequently (on activities other than lottery or scratch tickets) were more likely to report that they would know where to turn to for help (82 per cent versus 61 per cent), and more likely to report that they would seek help from a gambling helpline (49 per cent versus 31 per cent), than non-gamblers. While these findings are encouraging, it should be noted that self-reported intentions relating to help-seeking do not necessarily predict actual help-seeking behaviour.

# CHARACTERISTICS OF PEOPLE WITH GAMBLING PROBLEMS

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## **Key points**

- > Problem gambling is associated, in the public mind, with alcohol abuse, suicide, marital problems, parental neglect and being less compassionate.
- > Attitudes likely to be conducive to stigma and discrimination against people with gambling problems are evident in the community.

In order to investigate beliefs about the characteristics associated with problem gambling, particularly negative stereotypes, respondents were read a list of behaviours and characteristics. They were then asked to indicate how likely these behaviours and characteristics would be amongst people with gambling problems compared with other people in the community.

Around two-thirds of respondents believed that people with gambling problems would be more likely than the rest of the adult population to drink too much alcohol (68 per cent) and to attempt suicide (67 per cent) and close to half of respondents (47 per cent) believed that people with gambling problems would be more likely to experience discrimination from others.

Most respondents believed that people with gambling problems would be less likely to have a good marriage than other people (83 per cent) and a majority of respondents believed that people with gambling problems would be less likely to be caring parents (61 per cent), less likely to be understanding of other people's feelings (57 per cent) and less likely to be productive workers (53 per cent).

In short, individuals with gambling problems may experience the same sorts of stigma and discrimination experienced by individuals with mental health problems in general<sup>6</sup>.

People with gambling problems are:	Per cent
<b>more likely to ...</b>	
Drink too much alcohol	68
Attempt suicide	67
Experience discrimination from others	47
Take illegal drugs	39
<b>less likely to ...</b>	
Have a good marriage	83
Be a caring parent	61
Be understanding of other people's feelings	57
Be a productive worker	53
Be sociable	47

Compared to other people in the community, how likely are people with gambling problems to .....? Are they more likely, as likely, or less likely?

<sup>6</sup>Link, B.G., & Phelan, J.C. (2001). Conceptualizing stigma. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 27: 363-85.

# LIKELY CAUSES OF PROBLEM GAMBLING

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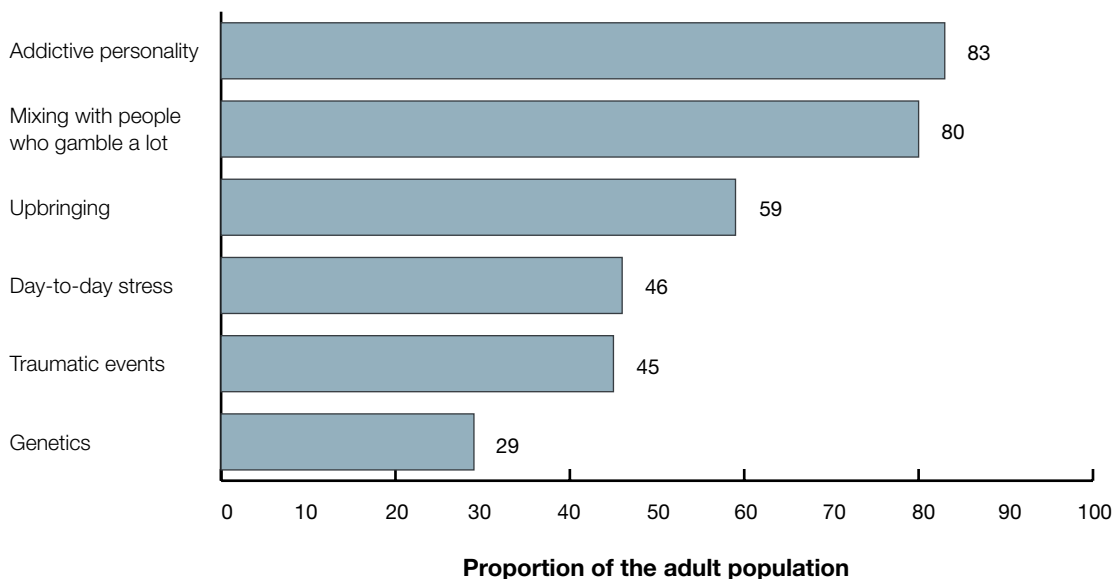
## **Key points**

- > Having an addictive personality and mixing with people who gamble a lot were seen as likely causes of problem gambling.
- > There was little difference between people who gamble often and non-gamblers in terms of these opinions.

The final section of the survey addressed public opinions about likely causes of problem gambling. Specifically, respondents were asked to rate, on a scale from 1 to 5, how likely each of several factors would be to cause gambling problems. The results showed that 'having an addictive personality' (83 per cent) and mixing with people who gamble a lot (80 per cent) were considered most likely to cause problem gambling, whereas less than one third of respondents (29 per cent) believed that a person's genetics would be likely or very likely to be a cause of problem gambling.

There was little difference in these perceptions according to respondents' own levels of gambling activity. Overall, these findings suggest that the public considers problem gambling to be the product of both personality characteristics and environmental/societal factors. For example, 86 per cent of very frequent gamblers nominated an addictive personality as a likely cause, compared to 83 per cent for the population as a whole.

The significance attached to having an addictive personality as a cause of problem gambling is of interest because many experts believe that gambling is best viewed as a form of addiction. It is likely that 'pathological gambling' will be included in the category of 'addiction and related disorders', alongside alcohol and substance abuse, in the upcoming revision of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders<sup>7</sup>.



'Problem gambling has many possible causes. On a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 equals highly unlikely and 5 equals highly likely, how likely are each of the following to cause gambling problems?' Estimates combine 'highly likely' and 'likely'.

<sup>7</sup>Shaffer, H.J., Martin, R. Disordered gambling: etiology, trajectory, and clinical considerations. *Annual Review of Clinical Psychology* 2011, 7: 483-510.

# KEY TRENDS: MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEMS AND POLITICAL MOOD

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## Key points

- > Immigration and the economy/jobs are viewed by the public as the most important problems facing Australia, with 20 per cent mentioning immigration and 18 per cent mentioning the economy/jobs.
- > A large majority of Australians are satisfied with the way the country is heading.
- > Dissatisfaction with the country's direction is most associated with concerns about better government and immigration, while satisfaction is most associated with concerns about the environment.



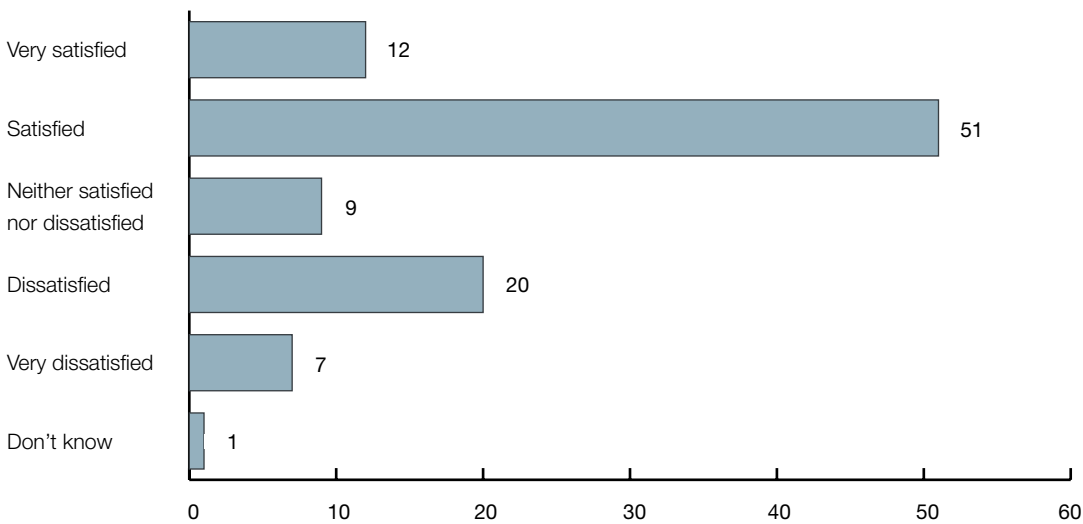
Since the ANUpoll started in early 2008, the economy has been the most frequently mentioned problem by the survey respondents. Concern about the economy peaked at over half the respondents in early 2009, at the height of the global financial crisis, and has declined thereafter, bottoming at around one in five respondents in early 2010. In this poll, 18 per cent mentioned the economy and jobs as their first concern, with 16 per cent mentioning it as their second concern.

This ANUpoll is distinctive in that the first mentioned issue was neither the economy or the environment, but immigration. In this poll, 20 per cent mentioned immigration as their first concern, with a further 11 per cent nominating it as their second concern. The period of the fieldwork for this survey, from late April to early May, coincided with the unrest at the Villawood Detention Centre. The unrest attracted widespread media attention and this may have influenced the views of the respondents. The economy was mentioned as the most important problem by 18 per cent of the respondents, followed by 16 per cent who mentioned it as a second concern. The environment and global warming were ranked third, while better government ranked fourth, with 9 per cent of mentions.

Rank	Issue	Per cent mentioned	(Change December 10 May 2011)
1	Immigration	20	(+8)
2	Economy/jobs	18	(-1)
3	Environment/global warming	11	(-1)
4	Better government	9	(-1)

'What do you think is the most important problem facing Australia today?'

The ANUpolls have also been marked by a remarkably high and consistent proportion saying that they are satisfied with the direction in which Australia is heading. This poll is no exception, and a total of 63 per cent were either 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with the direction the country is headed, with just 27 per cent dissatisfied. This is almost exactly the same as the proportion recorded in the December 2010 ANUpoll and only a few per centage points less than that recorded in the ANUpolls conducted in 2009.



'All things considered, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the country is heading?'

In order to ascertain which of the four top mentioned issues were related to how the respondents viewed the direction of the country, correlations were calculated between each of the four issues and satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the country's direction. A positive correlation shows that concern is related to satisfaction, a negative correlation that it is related to dissatisfaction. The results show that

dissatisfaction is greatest with regard to better government with a strong and statistically significant correlation of  $-.29$ . There is also a strong and significant correlation between immigration and dissatisfaction with the country's direction. By contrast, those who mentioned the environment and global warming tended to be more satisfied, while there is no significant effect for the economy.

Satisfaction vs dissatisfaction	
Better government	$-.29$ ( $p < .000$ )
Immigration	$-.11$ ( $p < .000$ )
Economy/jobs	$.04$ ( $p = .141$ )
Environment/global warming	$.13$ ( $p < .000$ )

Figures are correlations between satisfaction with country's direction and most important concerns.



# ANUpoll QUESTIONS

<b>Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the country is heading?</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Very Satisfied	143	11.8
Satisfied	619	51.0
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	115	9.5
Dissatisfied	243	20.0
Very dissatisfied	81	6.7
Don't know	9	.8
Refused	3	.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>What do you think is the most important problem facing Australia today?</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Economy/jobs	220	18.2
Industrial relations	4	.3
Interest rates	9	.7
Housing affordability	23	1.9
Health care	51	4.2
Education	37	3.1
Defence/national security	5	.4
Terrorism	13	1.1
Afghan war	0	.0
Environment/global warming	131	10.8
Water management	8	.6
Immigration	244	20.1
Indigenous affairs	5	.4
Taxation	31	2.5
Better government	109	9.0
Law and order/crime/justice system	17	1.4
Ageing population	31	2.5
Values/morals/respect for others	47	3.9
Poverty/Social exclusion/inequality	23	1.9
None/no other	12	1.0
Trade balance	7	.6
Rural/farming issues	1	.0
Social services	3	.3
Infrastructure/Planning/Innovation	21	1.7
Alcohol and drug use	9	.7
Young people's behaviour/attitudes	4	.3
Foreign influence/Australia's position in the world	14	1.1
Family/community/societal breakdown	12	1.0
Other Specify	29	2.4
Don't Know /can't Say	91	7.5
Refused	2	.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>And what do you think is the second most important problem facing Australia today?</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Economy/jobs	194	16.0
Industrial relations	3	.2
Interest rates	9	.7
Housing affordability	27	2.2
Health care	74	6.1
Education	49	4.0
Defence/national security	9	.7
Terrorism	11	.9
Iraq war	2	.2
Afghan war	1	.1
Environment/global warming	86	7.1
Water management	9	.8
Immigration	138	11.4
Indigenous affairs	12	1.0
Taxation	26	2.1
Better government	62	5.1
Law and order/crime/justice system	34	2.8
Ageing population	39	3.2
Values/morals/respect for others	34	2.8
Poverty/Social exclusion/inequality	32	2.6
None/no other	34	2.8
Trade balance	5	.4
Rural/farming issues	10	.9
Social services	19	1.5
Infrastructure/Planning/Innovation	19	1.6
Alcohol and drug use	12	1.0
Young people's behaviour/attitudes	12	1.0
Foreign influence/Australia's position in the world	22	1.8
Family/community/societal breakdown	2	.1
Other Specify	47	3.9
Don't Know/can't Say	75	6.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1108</b>	<b>91.3</b>
Skipped	105	8.7

<b>Perceptions of gambling: People should have the right to gamble whenever they want</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Strongly agree	163	13.4
Agree	655	54.0
Neither agree or disagree	47	3.9
Disagree	222	18.3
Strongly disagree	118	9.7
Don't know	6	.5
Refused	2	.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Perceptions of gambling: There are too many opportunities for gambling nowadays		
	Number	Per cent
Strongly agree	563	46.4
Agree	452	37.3
Neither agree or disagree	28	2.3
Disagree	135	11.1
Strongly disagree	28	2.3
Don't know	5	.4
Refused	1	.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Perceptions of gambling: Gambling should be discouraged		
	Number	Per cent
Strongly agree	372	30.7
Agree	469	38.7
Neither agree or disagree	70	5.8
Disagree	265	21.9
Strongly disagree	33	2.7
Don't know	4	.3
Refused	0	.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Perceptions of gambling: Most people who gamble do so sensibly		
	Number	Per cent
Strongly agree	55	4.5
Agree	425	35.0
Neither agree or disagree	65	5.4
Disagree	382	31.5
Strongly disagree	192	15.8
Don't know	92	7.6
Refused	2	.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Perceptions of gambling: Gambling is dangerous for family life		
	Number	Per cent
Strongly agree	481	39.6
Agree	489	40.4
Neither agree or disagree	82	6.8
Disagree	136	11.2
Strongly disagree	14	1.2
Don't know	7	.6
Refused	3	.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>Perceptions of gambling: On balance, gambling is good for society</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Strongly agree	10	.9
Agree	178	14.7
Neither agree or disagree	91	7.5
Disagree	549	45.3
Strongly disagree	358	29.5
Don't know	18	1.5
Refused	9	.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>Perceptions of gambling: Gambling livens up life</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Strongly agree	21	1.7
Agree	256	21.1
Neither agree or disagree	76	6.3
Disagree	545	44.9
Strongly disagree	290	23.9
Don't know	20	1.6
Refused	5	.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>Perceptions of gambling: People should be limited to spending an amount they nominate before they start gambling</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Strongly agree	456	37.6
Agree	436	35.9
Neither agree or disagree	37	3.1
Disagree	174	14.4
Strongly disagree	90	7.4
Don't know	17	1.4
Refused	2	.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>



<b>Perceptions of gambling: Gambling activities are advertised responsibly</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Strongly agree	67	5.5
Agree	494	40.7
Neither agree or disagree	72	5.9
Disagree	322	26.6
Strongly disagree	163	13.4
Don't know	93	7.6
Refused	3	.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>Perceptions of gambling: Gambling laws in Australia are properly enforced</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Strongly agree	62	5.1
Agree	394	32.5
Neither agree or disagree	66	5.4
Disagree	275	22.6
Strongly disagree	85	7.0
Don't know	329	27.1
Refused	2	.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>Perceptions of gambling: The government has no right to restrict a person's gambling</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Strongly agree	131	10.8
Agree	380	31.4
Neither agree or disagree	63	5.2
Disagree	473	39.0
Strongly disagree	131	10.8
Don't know	29	2.4
Refused	7	.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>How many days each month did you gamble (on activities other than lottery or scratch tickets) in the last 12 months?</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
1	89	7.3
2	42	3.5
3	28	2.3
4	42	3.4
5	9	.7
6	11	.9
7	0	.0
8	7	.6
10	3	.3
12	4	.4
15	1	.1
16	2	.2
20	3	.2
25	1	.1
30	0	.0
Never/none	626	51.6
Less than monthly	343	28.3
Refused	1	.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>How many days each month did you buy instant scratch tickets or lottery tickets for yourself in the last 12 months?</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
1	101	8.3
2	42	3.5
3	4	.4
4	152	12.5
5	3	.3
6	3	.2
8	7	.6
9	1	.1
10	1	.1
12	9	.8
15	0	.0
16	1	.1
20	1	.1
30	0	.0
31	1	.1
Never/none	558	46.0
Less than monthly	325	26.8
Don't know	1	.1
Refused	0	.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>Gambling problems: What are the first two gambling activities you think of?</b> (First mention)		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Poker machines or gaming machines	842	69.4
Horse or greyhound races	173	14.2
Instant scratch tickets	3	.3
Lottery tickets	15	1.2
Keno	0	.0
Table games at a casino	112	9.2
Bingo or housie at a club or hall	2	.2
Sporting or special events like football or a TV show	24	2.0
Casino type games on the internet for money	14	1.2
Games like cards, mah-jong or snooker privately for money	6	.5
Don't know	21	1.7
Refused	1	.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>Gambling problems: What are the first two gambling activities you think of?</b> (Second mention)		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Poker machines or gaming machines	167	13.7
Horse or greyhound races	546	45.0
Instant scratch tickets	14	1.2
Lottery tickets	37	3.1
Keno	13	1.1
Table games at a casino	196	16.1
Bingo or housie at a club or hall	2	.1
Sporting or special events like football or a TV show	73	6.0
Casino type games on the internet for money	71	5.8
Games like cards, mah-jong or snooker privately for money	23	1.9
None/no other	18	1.5
Don't know	31	2.5
Refused	1	.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1191</b>	<b>98.2</b>
Skipped	22	1.8

**If you or a member of your family had a problem with gambling, would you know where to turn to get help?**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Yes	733	60.5
No	469	38.7
Don't know	10	.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Helpful or harmful: A family doctor**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Helpful	588	48.5
Harmful	19	1.5
Neither	556	45.9
Don't know	50	4.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Helpful or harmful: A social worker**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Helpful	954	78.6
Harmful	20	1.6
Neither	192	15.8
Don't know	48	3.9
Refused	0	.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Helpful or harmful: A telephone helpline**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Helpful	956	78.8
Harmful	18	1.5
Neither	195	16.1
Don't know	44	3.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Helpful or harmful: A psychiatrist or psychologist**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Helpful	1035	85.3
Harmful	22	1.8
Neither	108	8.9
Don't know	48	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>Helpful or harmful: Close family or friends</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Helpful	846	69.7
Harmful	48	4.0
Neither	287	23.6
Don't know	31	2.5
Refused	2	.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>Helpful or harmful: A minister of religion</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Helpful	572	47.1
Harmful	76	6.3
Neither	508	41.9
Don't know	53	4.4
Refused	5	.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>Helpful or harmful: A financial counsellor</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Helpful	752	62.0
Harmful	63	5.2
Neither	356	29.4
Don't know	40	3.3
Refused	1	.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>Helpful or harmful: Self-help guides, including the internet</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Helpful	512	42.2
Harmful	130	10.7
Neither	507	41.8
Don't know	64	5.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>People with gambling problems: Be a productive worker</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Less likely	636	52.5
As likely	400	33.0
More likely	71	5.9
Don't know	102	8.4
Refused	3	.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>People with gambling problems: Be a caring parent</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Less likely	735	60.6
As likely	356	29.3
More likely	30	2.5
Don't know	89	7.3
Refused	4	.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>People with gambling problems: Be sociable</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Less likely	567	46.7
As likely	411	33.9
More likely	159	13.1
Don't know	72	5.9
Refused	4	.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>People with gambling problems: Have a good marriage</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Less likely	1007	83.0
As likely	130	10.7
More likely	12	1.0
Don't know	60	4.9
Refused	5	.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>People with gambling problems: Be understanding of other people's feelings</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Less likely	696	57.4
As likely	372	30.7
More likely	36	3.0
Don't know	103	8.5
Refused	6	.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

People with gambling problems: Attempt suicide		
	Number	Per cent
Less likely	53	4.3
As likely	227	18.7
More likely	811	66.9
Don't know	113	9.4
Refused	9	.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

People with gambling problems: Drink too much alcohol		
	Number	Per cent
Less likely	52	4.3
As likely	250	20.6
More likely	823	67.8
Don't know	83	6.9
Refused	5	.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

People with gambling problems: Take illegal drugs		
	Number	Per cent
Less likely	162	13.3
As likely	408	33.7
More likely	472	38.9
Don't know	167	13.7
Refused	5	.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

People with gambling problems: Experience discrimination from others		
	Number	Per cent
Less likely	121	10.0
As likely	396	32.7
More likely	575	47.4
Don't know	116	9.6
Refused	5	.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>Problem gambling causes: An addictive personality</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Highly unlikely	26	2.2
Unlikely	24	2.0
Neither likely or unlikely	116	9.6
Likely	294	24.2
Highly likely	709	58.4
Don't know	39	3.2
Refused	4	.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>Problem gambling causes: Traumatic events</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Highly unlikely	116	9.6
Unlikely	180	14.9
Neither likely or unlikely	339	28.0
Likely	318	26.2
Highly likely	224	18.4
Don't know	32	2.6
Refused	3	.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

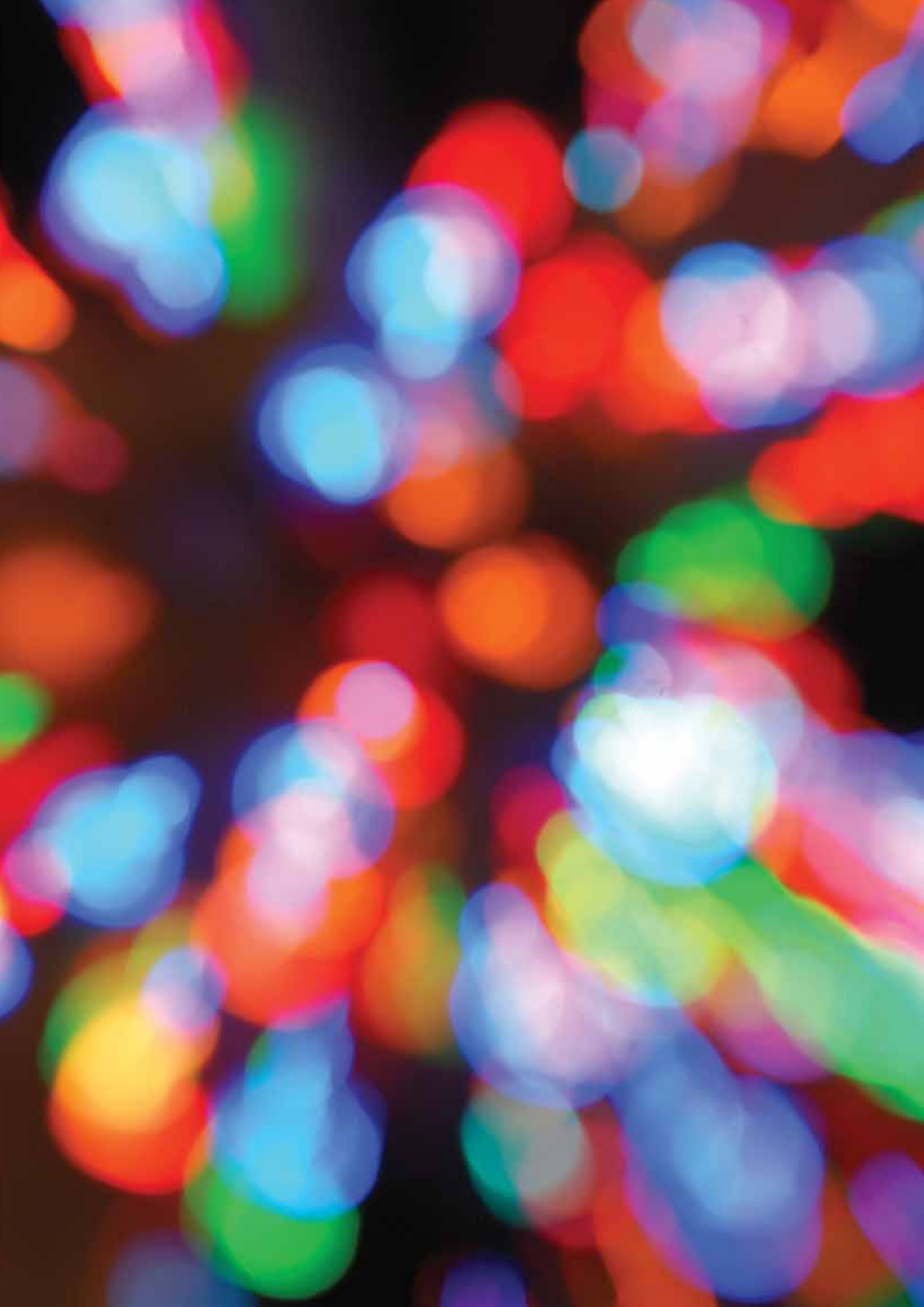
<b>Problem gambling causes: A person's upbringing</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Highly unlikely	83	6.8
Unlikely	127	10.5
Neither likely or unlikely	271	22.3
Likely	417	34.4
Highly likely	295	24.3
Don't know	17	1.4
Refused	3	.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>



<b>Problem gambling causes: Their genetics</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Highly unlikely	251	20.7
Unlikely	256	21.1
Neither likely or unlikely	282	23.3
Likely	232	19.2
Highly likely	118	9.7
Don't know	70	5.8
Refused	3	.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>Problem gambling causes: Mixing with people who gamble a lot</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Highly unlikely	26	2.1
Unlikely	46	3.8
Neither likely or unlikely	159	13.1
Likely	376	31.0
Highly likely	592	48.8
Don't know	11	.9
Refused	3	.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>Problem gambling causes: Day to day stresses</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Highly unlikely	64	5.3
Unlikely	170	14.0
Neither likely or unlikely	397	32.8
Likely	320	26.4
Highly likely	239	19.7
Don't know	18	1.5
Refused	4	.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>100.0</b>





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