Background Q&A

The below questions were raised by our stakeholders and community about the Foundation's outcomes framework, which was launched in March 2022.

You can read our outcomes framework on our website.

How will the Foundation report progress on the outcomes framework?
Transparency is a key tenet of the outcomes framework. The Foundation has committed to releasing a report on the framework annually. This publication will report on the measures across all seven outcomes to enable the Foundation and those working in the sector to understand where progress is being made to prevent and reduce gambling harm and where further work or different approaches are needed.

How did you decide on the seven outcomes?
The process to develop the outcomes framework was driven by a desktop review that considered both gambling harm and public health literature, as well as consultation with people with lived experience of gambling harm.

We started very broad, and honed our focus into the areas that the evidence identified as being most important to prevent and reduce gambling harm. We wanted the outcomes framework to help 'measure what matters', and the seven outcomes reflect this.

There are a number of measures in the outcomes framework where there is no identified data source. How will you resolve these?
A decision was taken early on to create a framework that would be immediately useful, and therefore for most measures data is being drawn from existing data collections and surveys. This means that measures and data sources have been selected to give us the best answer at present. Where higher quality or more relevant data becomes available over time, we would seek to include these.

We also have a number of measures that are aspirational – that we would ideally like to collect data for, but that data does not yet exist. Part of our approach over time will be to seek out and develop those data sources. We will continue to explore opportunities to identify new data sources, including by working with other organisations in our sector and seeking to include gambling-related questions in other relevant surveys.

I have identified possible data sources that could be used to monitor the outcomes framework. Can I contact someone to let them know?
We are very keen to hear from stakeholders about data collections that we are unaware of. Please email contact@responsiblegambling.vic.gov.au and you will be directed to the correct person.

Following a recommendation, there are a number of requirements that we must consider for a data source to be viable for monitoring purposes. These include data collection occurring at regular intervals and over time rather than one-off, and robust method and sample size.

Will the framework enable monitoring of changes in experiences of gambling harm among different groups in the community, for example people from disadvantaged backgrounds or culturally and linguistically diverse communities?
For each measure, the outcomes framework monitors change at a population level.

We have also identified subpopulation analysis for each measure that is important to help measure the impact of gambling harm on different groups in the community over time.

By taking this approach, we have developed an outcomes framework that is flexible, and allows us to focus on different groups at different times depending on current research and priorities for preventing gambling harm in these groups.

When developing the outcomes framework, it was also important for us to strike a balance between having thorough data, and manageable levels of reporting. Therefore, the Foundation has focused on specific populations for each measure as part of our subpopulation analysis that we will prioritise for monitoring in the immediate term.

The outcomes framework includes measures that the Foundation does not have the legislated functions to change. How will the Foundation address measures in the outcomes framework that are beyond their control?
The causes of gambling harm are complex, as are the solutions. Our outcomes framework identifies outcomes that spread right across the gambling harm ecosystem. Achievement across all these areas, even those that are beyond the direct influence of the Foundation, are essential to preventing and reducing gambling harm. This makes the framework a useful tool for both the Foundation and other stakeholders working to the same aims.

In appendix three of the outcomes framework, we have identified three types of measures:
• context measures – important to monitor to fully understand gambling harm, but change is not within the Foundation's control
• influence measures – change is partly influenced by the Foundation
• control measures – change is under the Foundation's control, though causation is difficult to prove.

Acknowledging that there are gaps in what we can control ensures transparency and will help resolve them – both by the Foundation, and other groups across our sector.

My organisation is interested in applying the outcomes framework to its work. How should we go about this?
There are many ways to use the framework in your own organisation. Following the implementation of the framework into the Foundation's processes, we intend to develop guidance materials for other organisations to use for this purpose.

In the meantime, please email contact@responsiblegambling.vic.gov.au and we will be able to assist you directly.

Is the outcomes framework based on the Victorian public health and wellbeing outcomes framework?
Both the Foundation's outcomes framework and the Victorian public health and wellbeing outcomes framework are based on the Victorian Government's outcomes approach, and are structurally the same. As part of the development process we considered the Victorian public health and wellbeing outcomes framework, as well as other frameworks that have been developed in Victoria.

When will the outcomes framework and realignment of services be implemented? What is the timeframe?

The Foundation's first priority is developing the systems and processes to report annually on the measures in the framework. This information will be critical to guiding and informing our approach across all our work.

At the same time, we have started ensuring our strategy aligns with and addresses the outcomes in the framework. The Foundation's strategic priorities 2021–24 were developed alongside the outcomes framework. The longer-term view for any realignment of funded programs and services will be considered as part of a service review of the Foundation's prevention, early intervention and treatment and support services. This work is intended to be complete by early 2023, with implementation to follow.