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Discovering what
works for families

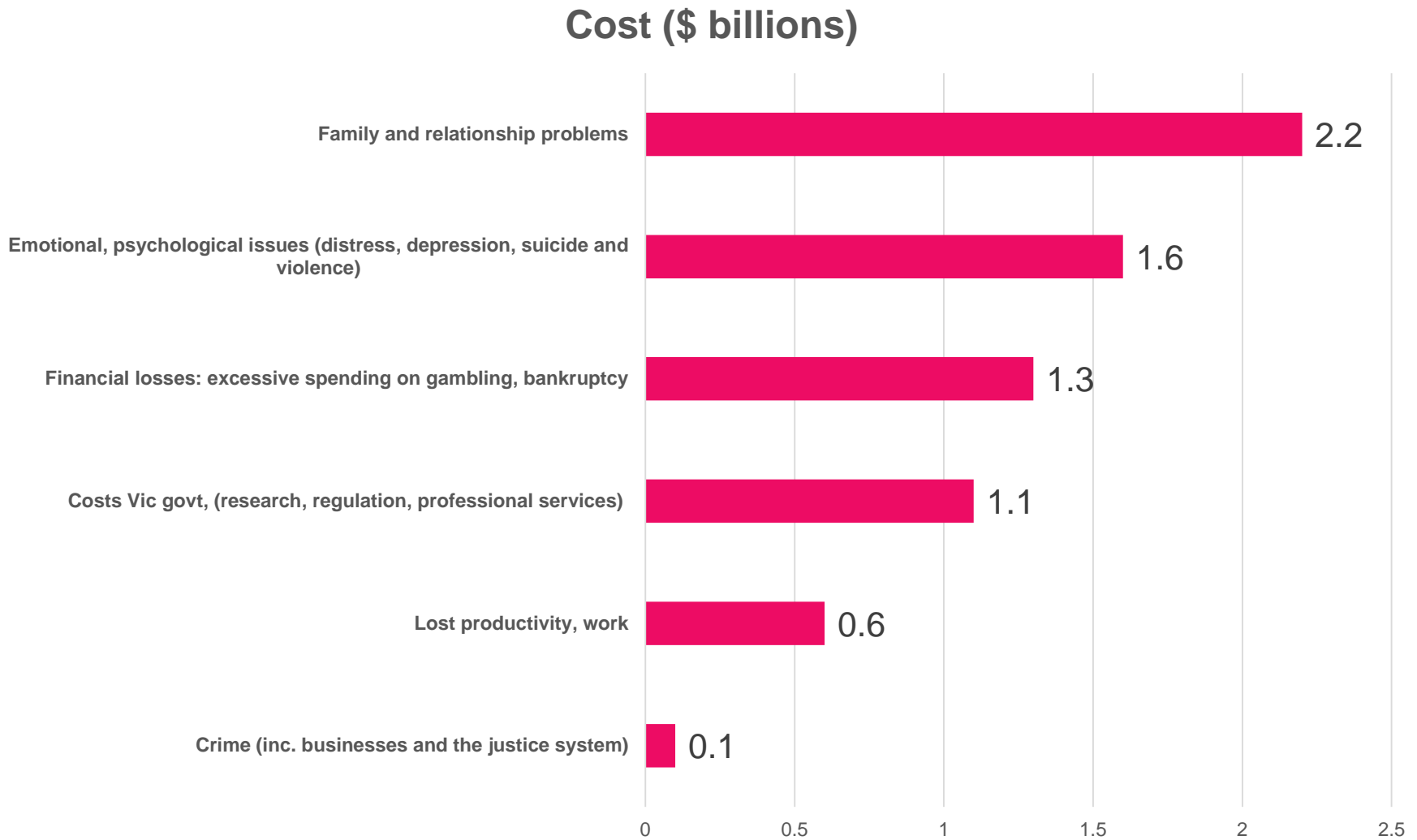
“Family-friendly” EGM venues and family harms derived from gambling: Experiences from the GISA Study

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Social costs of gambling: Victoria



Source: derived from Browne et al 2017

Social costs of gambling: Victoria



Gambling harms annually (\$6.9 bn)

4X more than annual revenue received (\$1.6 bn)

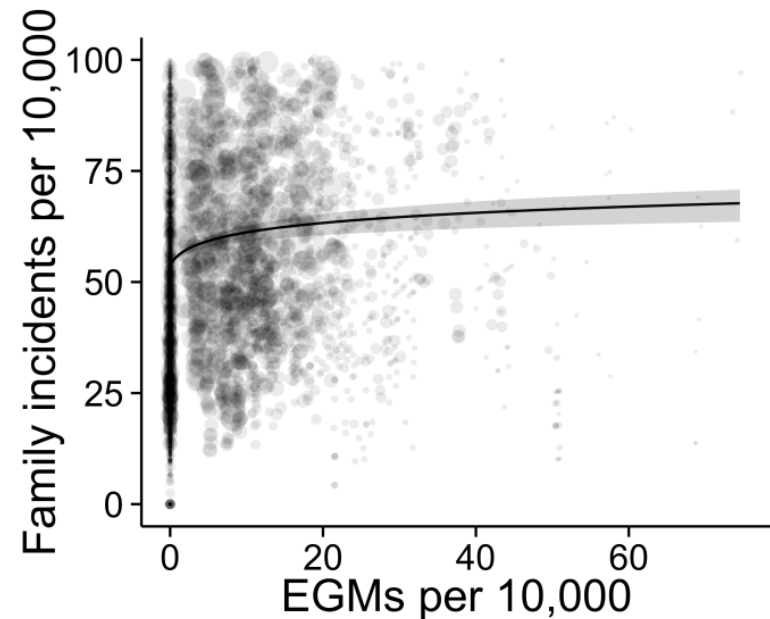
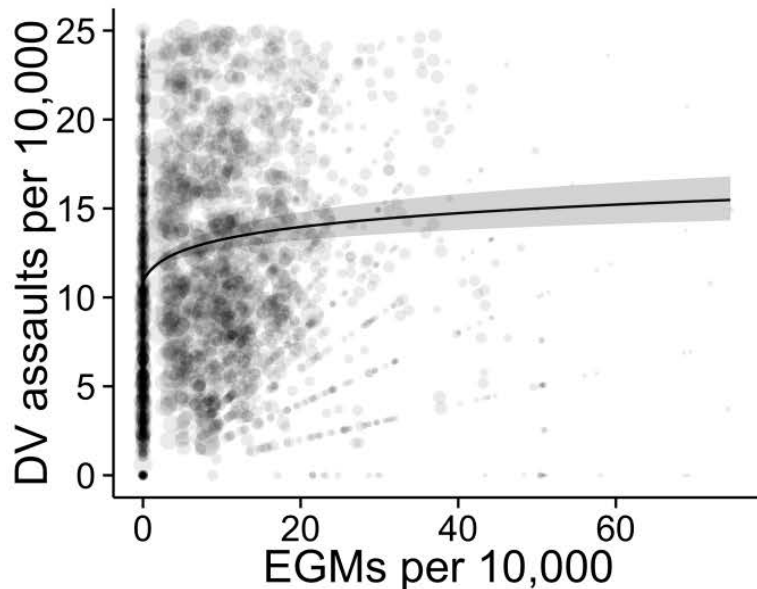
Family violence and gambling



Higher incidence rate of FV, DV in areas with more EGMs



Mean incidence rate	EGM free postcodes	Postcodes with 75 EGMs per 10,000
Family incidents	54	68
DV-related assaults	11	16



Gambling in suburban Australia (GISA) Study





- Multiple methods study
- Aims were
 - Examine how the local environment influences gambling consumption
 - Document impacts of gambling on PWG, families and communities

“Family-friendly” venue promotions



Seniors Lunches

Only **\$8.90**

Monday to Friday
(Excluding Public Holidays & Special Events)

**Soup or Dessert
ADD \$2.00**
*Not available in TAB or Gaming Room

“Family-friendly” venue promotions




MONDAY
Night
STEAK NIGHT
\$12
GRAZIER'S STEAK
SERVED WITH CHIPS
ADD SURF N TURF TOPPER \$4



LUNCH
AND DINNER
TUESDAY
WITH THE PURCHASE OF ANY DRINK

\$5
PARMA'S



WEDNESDAY
Night
BURGER NIGHT
\$10
BEEF OR CHICKEN BURGER
SERVED WITH CHIPS



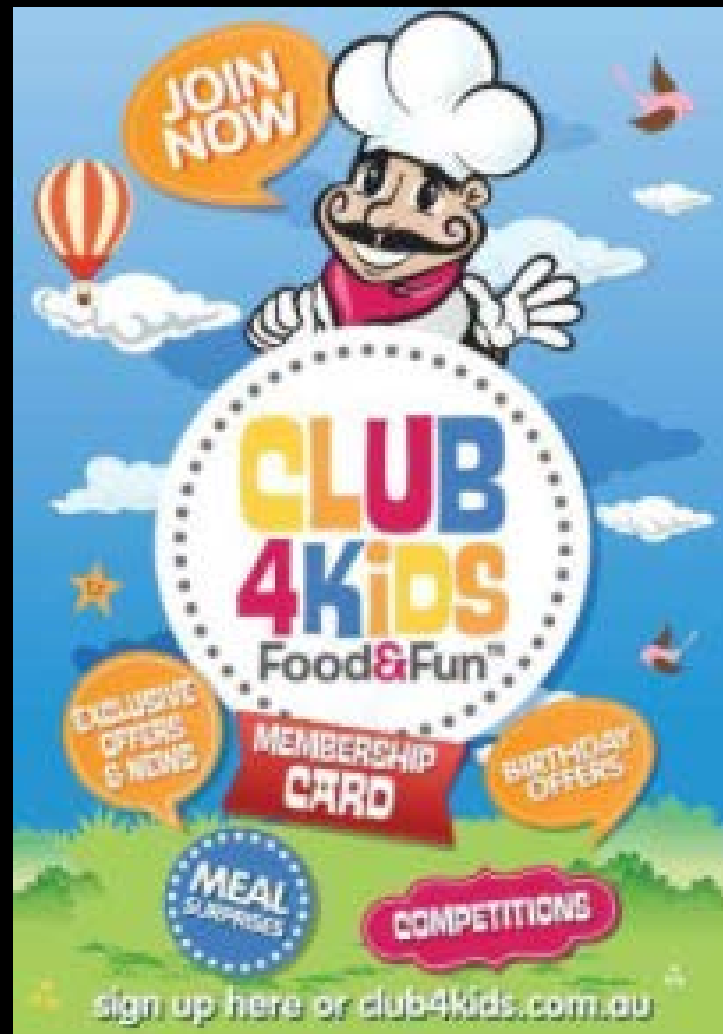
glengalahotel.com.au

FRIDAY NIGHT
KIDS EAT FREE
WITH THE PURCHASE
OF ANY MAIN MEAL
KIDS CLUB MEMBERS
EXCLUSIVE
END OF MONTH
ENTRY



glengalahotel.com.au

“Family-friendly” venue promotions



“Family-friendly” venue promotions



“Family-friendly” venue promotions



Convenient but ...



“..."Bring your kids". ..for a family that's - like us with the wheelchairs, it's something you don't have to think about. You just know that that's accessible. You know the kids are welcome”. - LR

“unless we go to a pub, I don't know where else to eat. ... we really struggled to go somewhere for a nice meal that doesn't have pokies.” – LR

Family-time at venues?



“...they're not places where kids should be. ...That's not a positive way of learning how to occupy your day or even to get into that mindset of double or nothing by the age of five.” - SOF1

“The parents were just taking it in turns, you know, of going next door into the pokies venue, 20 minutes there doing tag teams, backwards and forwards, It was just horrible.” - LR

EGM venues normalise gambling



“..my six year old grandson said, ‘I can't wait until I'm 18 to go through that door.’ I reckon children are very curious. If they see what we do, they would like to try”. - LR

“..they try to make it a family friendly environment, but all they're really doing is, it's a bit like the cigarette companies, .. they want to get them in early”. – LR

... even when children may
not see the machines

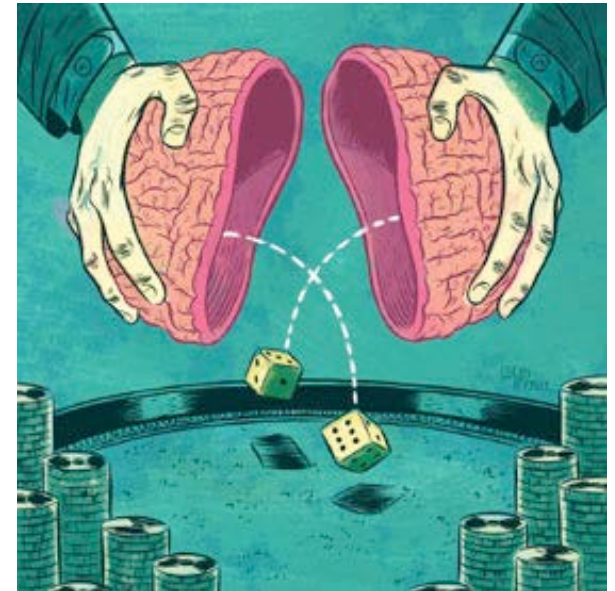


“I know my child, ... they learn so quickly from body language...they can [see] someone get excited or not and she'll process that...she'll remember things like that ...

Oh they must be winningshe will finally associate that with that. And she'll know the sounds too. – SOF

Family and household harms

- Diversion of essential household income
- Financial stress and ruin
- **Family and domestic violence**
- Social isolation, disconnection from family
- Neglect or maltreatment of children
- Separation and divorce
- Intimacy problems
- Physical and mental health problems



Venues as a refuge & 'safe space'



“he was controlling, he was violent ...you're told you're worthless... you're an oxygen thief ... I didn't want to be at home ...he tried to put my head through the door at one stage...

on the way home I'd stop and have a go at the pokies....lights and noises .. you didn't know what time it was, where it was, it was just, you and the machine.. it takes you away from reality...” - GF

Gambling linked to escalation of family violence



“He goes, ‘I’m not stupid.’ And he screams at me ... he is verbally abuse. Before physical in abuse but I called two times police but now he is scared ... Even small things will trigger him to be violent, really, really violent.” – GF

Gambling-related intimidation



“My pays have been going into [my wife’s] account. ... It doesn't mean I haven't gambled because I would pressure her to give me money using stand over tactics and physical type behaviour, right?” - GM

Financial abuse



“... he was withdrawing money from my card. And I wasn't aware of it ... And then it spiralled. He was selling all the shares ... it would be hundreds of thousands of dollars, I reckon.

... I think probably 99 per cent of people probably wouldn't have stayed together at that point.” – SOF

Children's legacy harms from gambling



“My mother loves money more than us. ... My brothers needed me and I was broken ... I had PTSD and anxiety disorder by the time I was 12 because of the all the trauma and all the abuse I had prior ... I had patterns of violent behaviour that I learned from being beaten so much at home and at school.

I didn't have any relief. ... I've had every kind of abuse under the sun. So I've had physical, sexual, mental, emotional, psychological and financial.” - SOF

“Family-friendly” EGM venues?



- Heavy promotion of loss-leading and non-gambling activities and facilities encourage use of EGMs
- Relationship and family harms described by participants who gambled and their significant others

Reducing family harms from gambling

- Gambling free spaces for residents to meet and socialise
- Restrict venue promotions, targeting families and children
- Restrict the distribution of EGM in local areas
- Introduce a range of harm-reduction measures
- Separate alcohol from ambient gambling
- Further research of gambling-related family violence

Disclosures

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 - AGRC has/had funding from Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation, Monash University, Central Queensland University, Department of Social Services also
 - The AGRC does not accept funding from gambling or other unhealthy consumption industries
- The authors do not work for, consult to, own shares in or receive funding from any company or organisation that would benefit from this study
- The authors endorse the Auckland Code of Ethics for Gambling Research
- Views expressed are the authors and may not reflect the views of the AIFS or the Australian Government

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ANROWS Project

Can you help us to recruit research participants?

We are conducting an important national study into gambling and domestic violence against women – as described below. To help us recruit research participants, can you please distribute this flyer to suitable clients and colleagues? Many thanks!

More info at: www.cqustudy.com



The relationship between gambling and domestic violence against women

CQUniversity is conducting a study into the relationship between gambling and domestic violence (DV) against women – including physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse. It aims to improve DV support and gambling help services for women.

We are inviting people with any of the experiences below to participate in paid, confidential interviews between July-Dec 2018:

- Women affected by DV linked to their own or a male partner's gambling, or who use gambling venues as a "safe space" to escape from DV.
- Women affected by financial abuse linked to a male partner's gambling.
- Men who have engaged in a behaviour change program for controlling or violent behaviours towards a female partner, and where gambling was an issue for either of them.

To find out more and register your participation please contact CQUniversity via:

- The project website: www.cqustudy.com
- Email: cqustudy@cqu.edu.au
- Phone: 03 9616 0512 to talk to our Project Officer

The study is funded by Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS). Ethics approval numbers: CQUniversity (0000020852), Relationships Australia NSW (111217_4), and UnitingCare Queensland (approval no. 22618).

Principal Researcher: Professor Nerilee Hing, CQUniversity

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