

Estimates Committee 2013
Questions Taken On Notice

(18/06/2013 to 27/06/2013)

Date: 19/06/2013

Output:

Sub Output:

Subject: Gambling Research

From: Mr Gerry Wood to Treasurer David Tollner
Department of Business

2-14

Question:

Minister, could you tell us about two projects in relation to gambling research: one was done by Charles Darwin University costing \$155,172, and one by the Menzies School of Health research for \$40, 729?

Answer:

Answered On: 27/06/2013

Response to Estimates Committee

Question Taken on Notice 2-14

Department of Business

Mr Gerry Wood to Minister for Business, the Hon David Tollner MLA

Minister, could you tell us about two projects in relation to gambling research: one was done by Charles Darwin University costing \$155,172, and on by the Menzies School of Health research for \$40,729?

CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY

The payment to Charles Darwin University (CDU) of \$155 172 was final payment in relation to a larger funding agreement of \$221 674 that was spread across two financial years. The project included a meta-analysis across a variety of different gambling research studies that had been conducted in an attempt to identify gaps in knowledge. Meta-analysis is the process contrasting and combining results from different studies in an attempt to identify patterns and relationships in the information, as well as areas of disagreement. The ultimate goal of this project was to develop a research plan for ongoing gambling research to fill the gaps in the information identified in the meta-analysis.

During the development of the project plan the research crept from being strictly gambling focused, to involving community safety aspects as well. The final result was a project plan that required funding to be sourced from other areas involved in community safety, as well as the Community Benefit Fund for the gambling aspect of the project. With staff turnover both in CDU and the Community Benefit Fund and the difficulties in sourcing multiple sources of funding, this expanded project did not proceed.

A major benefit obtained through this funding was the placement of a policy officer with CDU on a part-time basis. The information exchange between policy makers and research organisation proved valuable to both parties, with an understanding of issues that would not normally be apparent to each in isolation.

MENZIES SCHOOL OF HEALTH RESEARCH

The payment of \$40 729 to the Menzies School of Health Research was the final payment in a three year agreement worth \$194 368. The project received additional funding through an Australian Research Council Linkage grant.

The aim of this project was to develop a predictive model for calculating the potential for gambling relating harm from venues that operate Electronic Gaming Machines. The model can provide a forecast of likely catchment areas for gaming machine venues and could hopefully highlight areas of concern for potential problem gambling. The research team conducted extensive surveys of households in the Northern Territory in order to verify the accuracy of their model.

The final presentation of results from this project is anticipated to be in August/September 2013, at which time a verbal presentation, along with printed results will be provided.

For the past several years, Dr Martin Young (the lead researcher on this project) has presented his concept and progress to the National Association of Gambling Studies conference, which is an annual event that gathers researchers and gambling help organisations from around Australia (and occasionally internationally) to share and learn from each other in the area of problem gambling.