Background

Indigenous Australians have participated in gambling for over 300 years with Macassan traders first introducing card gambling. Today, card rings are still a widespread acceptable form of social recreation in Indigenous communities, while expansion of commercial forms of gambling, such as gaming machines, casinos, sports betting and wagering, has broadened Indigenous participation in gambling. Yet little public knowledge exists about most aspects of contemporary Indigenous gambling to inform public health measures to minimise gambling-related harm.

Aims

To analyse the prevalence of gambling problems amongst Indigenous Australians and associated risk factors and consequences, to develop a theoretical model that informs culturally and contextually appropriate public health measures for Indigenous gambling.

Methods

This mixed methods study involves qualitative interviews with Indigenous community leaders and quantitative surveys of Indigenous Australians conducted at major Indigenous festivals, sporting events and within specific communities.

Outcomes

The study will advance the fundamental knowledge base in Indigenous health and wellbeing, public health and gambling studies and be the first comprehensive public health analysis of Indigenous gambling across jurisdictions. Outcomes comprise the first theoretical model of Indigenous gambling derived from the most comprehensive and representative data collected to date and the first empirically and community identified public health responses to Indigenous gambling problems.