Background

The project will represent the first detailed exploration of the effects of commercial gambling on Aboriginal people in Northern Australia. The result will have direct policy impacts in the context of regional well-being and identifying and protecting vulnerable communities.

Aims

It specifically aims to assess the impact of continued commercial gambling expansion, including the spread of electronic gaming machines (EGMs), on Aboriginal communities. The project will explore how Aboriginal cultures react to, and adopt, western gambling into existing cultural frameworks.

Methods

The core task of the project will be to develop appropriate methodological tools for the assessment of gambling activity in Aboriginal communities. This will involve ethnographic work in Aboriginal communities and urban centres.

Outcomes

The research will advance our understanding of the implications for Aboriginal people of our enthusiastic embrace of gambling as a national institution. While there is considerable evidence from around the country and overseas to allow good practices to be developed for the population generally, there is virtually nothing for Aboriginal people living in the variety of settings that exist in the Northern Territory. Exploring the different ways different communities have come to terms with and appropriated gambling will enable us to develop more culturally appropriate frameworks for assessing the social impacts of commercial gambling, and to develop appropriate policy responses.