Anti-Gambling Work Receives Huge Financial Boost

The Northern Territory Government has granted nearly $2.5 million to academic and community groups for gambling research and amelioration initiatives.

The Gaming Minister Chris Burns said the funding was awarded through the Community Benefit Fund, which receives money from levies imposed on electronic gaming machines in NT hotels.

Dr Burns said Charles Darwin University has been granted $1.4 million over three years to conduct research into a series of projects focusing on gambling among Indigenous people, features of gambling in the broader community and policy responses.

“The significant funding being provided by the Territory Government to CDU is should help establish the University as a major centre of gambling research expertise in the country. This will have advantages for delivering good local research and information too,” Dr Burns said.

A further $81,218 has been awarded for this financial year to the University of Adelaide to investigate teenage gambling in the Territory.

“No such research has been conducted in the NT before,” Dr Burns said.

“A number of studies overseas and interstate show problem teenage gambling can lead to poor educational outcomes, substance abuse and adult problem gamblers.

“By conducting research into the gambling behaviour and attitudes of young people, we can gain better insights into adult problem gamblers.”

The remaining funds have been awarded to:

- **Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi** – **$569,950** over three years to conduct Wise Use of Money workshops. The workshops will target 19 remote communities in Central Australia and will teach families skills in governance and money matters.

- **Somerville Community Services** – **$236,193** over three years to operate financial counselling services in Darwin and Palmerston for current or recovering gamblers.
and their families

- **Amity Community Services** – **$133,820** over one year to provide training and workshops to gambling venue staff, medical practitioners and Indigenous communities that aim to improve the early identification of and intervention with problem gamblers.

Dr Burns said more than $8 million had been distributed to community groups and research organisations via the Community Benefit Fund since 2002.

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