

PGF Research Projects 2009-2010

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Venue project

Previous research by the Ministry of Health intelligence unit identified that electronic gambling machines (EGMs) are more common in areas with a higher deprivation decile rating, with machines dramatically over represented in deciles six, seven, eight, and nine. Previous PGF research using the DIA Electronic Monitoring System data has identified an anomaly in the financial activity in deciles six and seven; with decile six venues seeming to have higher than expected EGM activity and decile seven relatively lower than expected activity. This effect was discovered from analysis of a set of 1,800 machines randomly selected from venues in each of 10 venues located in each deprivation decile (100 venues). This raises the possibility that there is some feature of the venues in decile seven that enhances resistance to problematic gambling and some feature of the decile six venues that increases vulnerability to problem gambling.

A venue assessment protocol will be developed from that used in the venue census carried out in Nelson/Tasman in 2007 and used to assess the previously chosen random selection of venues classified as decile six and seven. The aim of this will be to determine any features peculiar to that venue that may promote gambling or contribute to resilience.

Over the period of this project, venues that are primarily TABs will be visited and the same venue assessment tool will be applied in order to assess these venues. TAB/pokie venues are in the unusual situation where the primary purpose of the venue is gambling which contravenes the Gambling Act. This is accepted on the basis that the gambling they offer is provided under two separate Acts, the Gambling Act and the Racing Act. This provides a loophole where gambling isn't the primary purpose of these establishments as the TAB is not included as gambling under the Gambling Act. This situation can also arise in licensed premises that offer gambling under the Gambling Act (Class 4 gambling) however gambling will always be the primary purpose of a venue that is primarily a TAB and also offers Class 4 gambling. On this basis alone the TAB venues warrant closer inspection.