

Final Media release

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2010 International Gambling Conference

The 2010 International Gambling Conference, being held at Auckland's Crowne Plaza Hotel from 24 to 26 February, will explore the impact of technology on gambling.

The conference, ***Gambling in the 21st Century – the Implications of Technology for Policy, Practice and Research***, is hosted by the AUT Gambling and Addictions Research Centre, Hapai Te Hauora Tapui Maori Public Health and the Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand.

Leading international and local academics and researchers will share their expertise at the conference which promises to bring into sharp focus how the face of gambling is changing with new and emerging technologies.

Professor Max Abbott, Director of AUT University's Gambling and Addictions Research Centre, will set the scene with an opening address on the impact of technology on gambling and measures to prevent and reduce gambling-related harm.

The growth of online gambling promises to be a 'hot topic' with Professor Robert Williams from the Alberta Gaming Research Institute, University of Lethbridge, Canada, presenting the results of a comprehensive review on internet gambling and an online study of 12,500 international online gamblers.

Professor David Korn, Health and Addictions Consultant and Faculty Member from the Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of Toronto in Canada, will deliver an address on a public health approach to working with gambling problems.

The conference programme will include papers, workshops and posters with a technology focus and other innovative practice and research that advance knowledge on gambling policy and professional practice.

Graham Aitken from the Problem Gambling Foundation says it is great to work with AUT and Hapai Te Hauora Tapui Maori Public Health to bring together people from around the world to share experiences and expertise.

"This year, we are fortunate to have Hapai Te Hauora Tapui Maori Public Health join us in hosting the Conference. This adds a new and interesting dimension to the Conference with several speakers that will talk about problem gambling and how it impacts indigenous communities," he says.

Over 250 delegates are expected at the conference from around New Zealand and overseas, including Australia, USA, Singapore, Finland, The Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

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