



27th Annual Conference

**22-24th November 2017,
Melbourne, Victoria**

‘Big Data, Social Media, and Online developments: Changing Paradigms & its implication’

Preliminary Notice and Call for Papers

The National Association for Gambling Studies (NAGS) would like to welcome submissions for the 27th Annual NAGS Conference to be held at the Novotel Melbourne on Collins, Melbourne, from 22-24th November this year.

The annual NAGS conferences attract national and international speakers from many different areas in the gambling field including, policy-makers, industry representatives, researchers, clinicians, counsellors and a wide range of people working with communities. The aim of the conference is to explain and explore research and developments in regulatory practices, government policies, treatment and service delivery, community development and industry practices in order to share knowledge and expertise.

We invite presenters to engage and stimulate discussion on a wide range of contemporary and emerging gambling related issues. To achieve these objectives, NAGS provides a variety of different presentation formats and forum types.

Prospective presenters can choose between:

- **Individual paper presentations**
- **Symposiums/workshops**
- **Brief presentations**
- **Ideas forums**
- **Panels/Debates**
- **Posters**



The theme of this year's conference relates to the emerging changes in the gambling environment generated by the introduction of large scale database tracking of gambling behaviour patterns, use of social media for advertising and promotional activities, Internet-based and other innovative counselling/clinical interventions and approaches, and the introduction of new technologies and forms such as virtual reality, eSports, skins, and daily fantasy sports. In Australia, changes are also proposed to address unregulated offshore online gambling; what are the implications for the gambling environment?

Many of these changes will also have implications for passive exposure to underage children, induce participation through 'attractive' bonus features and free credits, and promote highly immersive modes of gambling. What are the implications of behavioural tracking for identifying and managing gambling disorders among account holders, and issues of duty of care and corporate social responsibility? Is the government legitimising gambling by approving and regulating offshore wagering sites, and is this compounding the current effects of sports advertising and promotions? How can Internet-based and other innovative counselling/clinical programs be disseminated to maximise treatment outcomes?

We also welcome submissions from other areas likely to be of interest to delegates. This might include (but would not be limited to) topics relating to:

- Developments in new technologies and/or forms of gambling, gaming, sports betting, their delivery, appeal, marketing, and impacts for various groups;
- The role of social media and social gaming in fostering gambling behaviours and disorders;
- Can social media be used to promote awareness of and access to counselling/clinical interventions?;
- Local, State and Federal Government policy (e.g., harm minimisation, community issues) regulatory requirements to pre-empt and address issues related to consumer protection;
- Innovations and development in the community, health, welfare and wellbeing sectors
- Developments in the field of decision-making, addiction, psychology, psychiatric studies of gambling disorders;
- Mapping gambling-related harms and their impacts;
- Prevention and treatment services (e.g., early intervention, effectiveness, delivery modalities, primary care partnerships, innovative approaches);
- Cultural, anthropological and geographical studies
- Industry initiatives and developments (e.g., emerging products and services, responsible gambling initiatives, industry perceptions of gambling policy and research);
- Epidemiology / Community surveys; and
- Insights drawn from other fields.



GUIDELINES FOR ALL PROSPECTIVE PRESENTERS

ALL submissions must:

- ◆ Be received electronically to conference@nags.org.au
- ◆ Comply with the instructions as specified below
- ◆ Be received by the submission deadline of **31 July 2017**

In all cases submission for consideration is not a guarantee of acceptance. The Scientific Program Committee will review all submissions and selection of presentations will be partially determined by its requirement to:

- ◆ Achieve balance in the number of presentations under each theme or topic
- ◆ Limit multiple presentations from the same presenter/institution
- ◆ Ensure the range and diversity of NAGS interests are addressed

The Scientific Program Committee's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

All authors will be notified in late August as to whether their submission has been accepted for inclusion in the Conference program. Any queries should be directed in the first instance to **Stephanie Merkouris** at conference@nags.org.au

All presenters are required to fund their own travel and accommodation to the Conference and pay Conference registration fees.

All presentations will be made available on the NAGS website following the conference, unless specified by the presenter.

TYPES OF SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED

1. Individual Presentations

Submissions may be academic or more general in nature. Prospective presenters must submit an abstract for consideration as specified below.

2. Symposiums or Workshops

As an alternative to the above individual presentations, we invite prospective conference delegates to submit a symposium presentation. It is anticipated that a symposium or workshop would run across a full 90-minute session and would involve a group of presentations (e.g. 3-4) around a theme.

To streamline submission processes, we require submissions to provide a title and nominate a chairperson. The chairperson will be expected to submit an abstract on behalf of all presenters. The chair will be notified whether the symposium or workshop has been accepted.



3. Brief presentation & Ideas forum

We are also inviting prospective conference delegates to submit a Brief Presentation. Brief presentations are anticipated to run for 10-12 minutes with 2-3 minutes question time following.

One or more 90 minute sessions will be reserved in the conference program to allow a number of individual, brief presentations or briefings. These may be on any aspect of the gambling arena. New and innovative ideas and thoughts to generate discussion are encouraged. This style of presentation may be appropriate for a small piece of research, pilot data or a theoretical paper. It is intended that presenters in this session will talk or lead a discussion for a maximum of 10 minutes.

As with the individual presentations, a full abstract of the presentation is required. Use of audio visual aids may be available but not encouraged.

Please Note: Presentations under this category will not be eligible to apply for the Student Presentation Award.

4. Panel discussions & debates

Depending on the number and quality of submissions, one or more 90 minute sessions will be reserved in the conference program for panel discussions or debates on a specific topic proposed by delegates. Submissions under this category need to be complete, i.e. delegates need to nominate a topic of discussion/debate and provide a full panel of 3-5 delegates who have agreed to talk on the topic for the session. Submissions also need to nominate a chair or moderator for the panel.

NAGS encourages panel discussions and debates on topics which are current and/or controversial and which reflect the range and diversity of the Association's interests. It is expected that nominated panel members have the relevant expertise/experience to talk on the topic.

5. Posters

A poster session will be held during the conference. The poster session is ideal for people from community organisations, students and early career researchers to present their gambling-related research in a relatively informal setting. The poster session is designed to provide conference attendees with the opportunity to engage with other delegates, share their research ideas and gain feedback from others.

Presenting a poster is an ideal way for conference delegates to maximize their conference attendance by making new connections, sharing their areas of interest, and making a contribution to the field.

A \$500 prize will be awarded this year to the best adjudged poster.

Please Note: Posters will not be eligible to apply for the Student Presentation Award.



Poster specifications

The poster submission can address any topic related to gambling, problem gambling or ways to provide a healthier approach to gambling. Each poster should make at least one recommendation or discuss one implication on the practical relevance of the material. Presenters are responsible for printing and transporting their posters to be set-up during the conference.

Posters should have a maximum height of 0.9m and max width of 1.5m. An ideal poster will have a balance of text and figures which are sufficiently large to be read from a 1m distance. All figures and data should be well labeled and the poster should be able to stand on its own without explanation. In addition to the poster which will be displayed during the conference, presenters must develop a one-page summary that will be distributed to conference participants.

All abstracts should be submitted in accordance with the **Submission Guidelines** below. Submissions must be received by **31 July 2017** to enable any re-submissions as posters.



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Your submission must be in the form of an electronic Word document formatted in Times New Roman single space 12 font, justified text, no indents, a single line space between paragraphs and include:

- Title of Paper (14 font, upper case, bold)
- All authors listed with presenting author underlined
- Contact details of the presenting author including title, position, organisation, postal address, email, and telephone
- Abstract of 250 words or less
- A clear statement of the implications of the material to be presented and how it aligns with the Conference theme, i.e., the ‘so-what?’ of the presentation (50 words maximum)
- 50-word biography of presenting author
- Please indicate clearly at the top of the abstract whether your presentation is a **Paper presentation, Symposium or Workshop, Brief presentation, Ideas forum, Panel/Debate or Poster**
- Unless specified otherwise, all presentations will be included on the NAGS Conference website
- A laptop computer and projector will be made available for all presentations. If additional audio/visual requirements are required, this must be specified and arranged with the Conference organisers

SUBMISSION SELECTION CRITERIA

Submissions will be evaluated with consideration to the extent to which they:

- Are written with clarity and coherence
- Reflect new and innovative thought on a topic
- Contribute to innovative practices
- Reflect scientific, scholarly and professional work
- Include implications likely to be effective in enhancing participants’ knowledge

Special consideration will also be given to papers that are from authors eligible for the NAGS Student Presentation Award (*see further for eligibility requirements*).

ABOUT NAGS

NAGS is Australia's leading forum on gambling - providing opportunities for open and respectful discussion and encouraging all participants to share their knowledge, expertise and opinions.

The Association is a not-for-profit, self-funding organisation that, as a body, has no opinions or biases in the gambling debate, however individual members of the Association hold a diverse range of views.

The NAGS Annual Conference is an excellent medium for knowledge sharing, networking with colleagues and exploring opportunities for discussion and collaboration with all other stakeholders in the gambling domain.

The objectives of the Association are:

- To promote, conduct, commission, develop and coordinate opportunities for research into gambling and activities associated with gambling;
- To act as an agent for the collection and dissemination of information and data related to gambling and associated activities;
- To develop, encourage and provide improved research standards and better facilities for research and analysis so as to assist and encourage members to achieve improved research skills; and
- To further knowledge and understanding of gambling and gambling related issues in the community.

NAGS FINANCIAL SUPPORT / SPONSORSHIP

NAGS derives its funding from member fees and conference proceeds. NAGS seeks conference sponsorship from all stakeholders as a means of minimising registrant costs – particularly as these relate to the funding of meals and social events – in order to enhance the accessibility and affordability of the conference for all.

Sponsorship is accepted only in accordance with NAGS policy that:

- (i) funds cannot influence conference program content or choice of speakers; and
- (ii) NAGS does not promote commercial gambling products/services or any special interest group agenda.

For further information please contact us to request a copy of the NAGS Sponsorship Guidelines (nags@nags.org.au).

NAGS STUDENT PRESENTATION AWARD

This exciting initiative offers a prize of up to \$5000 for a student to travel to an international conference to present their work.

To be eligible students must:

- (a) Be currently enrolled as students in an Australian tertiary education institution whose study encompasses the field of gambling research;
- (b) Be sole presenters of the paper;
- (c) Be registered and paid NAGS members; and
- (d) Be presenting their own work which is based on the completion of some form of research involving the collection of data.

This Award is only available to presenters who submit abstracts for the **Individual Presentation** section.

Interested presenters **MUST** register their eligibility for the Award on the Submission Form. Presenters who do not register their interest will not be considered for the Award.

Applicants must already have had their abstract accepted for inclusion in the conference by the Conference Organising Committee. Do not lodge an application until this has occurred.

Applicants must be registered for the conference.

Special student registration rates for Conference Registration are available – proof of studentship must be supplied at time of registration.

Application Form available at http://www.nags.org.au/student_awards.php