



## Activity statements can help consumers make decisions about online gambling

Online wagering is the fastest growing form of gambling in Australia. Providing consumers with activity statements showing details of their gambling can help track their spending, wins and losses.

We used behavioural science to design and test two online wagering activity statements. We targeted cognitive biases known to affect gambling decisions.

In a study simulating gambling, we showed participants one of the summary activity statements or no statement and measured their gambling behaviours.

Account name: John Sr Account no.: 90210 thly Statemer YOUR WINS AND LOSSES OVER AUGUST 2020 our net You spent You won You lost \$1,170 \$570 \$880 \$310 From 6 bets From 16 bets On 22 bets Overall YOUR ACCOUNT SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 2020 \$100 \$500 -\$200 -\$310 \$90 ning balance Deposits Withdrawals Net Result Closing balan YOUR SPENDING AND NET RESULT OVER 6 MONTHS \$3,670 \$900 \$300 \$100 \$1000 \$200 \$1170 \$530 You spent \$200 \$200 -\$400 \$600 Net result \$800 \$1,200 \$1.400

Activity Summary Statement A (above) shows gambling over time using a graph format. Activity Statement B includes a table.

Participants who saw an activity statement in the gambling game bet less than participants who did not see a statement.

However, all participants placed roughly the same number of bets.

The statement with the graph reduced amount bet by



The statement with the table reduced amount bet by



**Participants found the activity statements useful for guiding their gambling behaviours:** *"Think this is a good reality check for people as a few dollars here and there mean not much but when you see these big numbers they really stand out and make you question your behaviours."* 

Easy to understand activity statements reduced misperceptions about past and future gambling outcomes, and empowered online gamblers to make informed decisions about their bets.



