



DR CRYSTAL FULTON IMPACT JOURNEY

The impact of gambling on individuals and society in Ireland



Dr Fulton's study of the social impact of harmful gambling in Ireland has helped drive the conversation around an issue that negatively affects between 224,000 and 440,000 people

2007

INPUTS

- Funding from the Irish Research Council
- Existing knowledge
- The challenge: Harmful gambling negatively affects hundreds of thousands of people in Ireland

ACTIVITIES

- Two-year exploration of social impact of harmful gambling
- In-depth interviews with stakeholders, including addiction counsellors, recovering gamblers, and gamblers' social connections
- Focus group with gambling industry representatives

OUTPUTS

- Published the first national study of harmful gambling in Ireland (two additional publications in press)
- Unique focus on measuring the social impact of harmful gambling (on families and communities, for example), beyond simply 'counting' gamblers
- Identified a need for updated legislation, planned services, and open discussion to dispel the stigma

OUTCOMES

- Follow-up study by Dr Fulton to drive legislative change, funded by Dept of Justice & Equality
- Invited to address the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice & Equality, and featured in Parliamentary Questions
- Included in EU-hosted conference on controlling gambling
- Wide, ongoing press coverage
- Delivered seminars to two addiction counsellors' groups



IMPACTS

POLITICAL

- Influenced debate and increased understanding
- Gambling Control Bill 2018 introduced and entered Stage Two of review

SOCIETAL

- Improved wellbeing via new and improved interventions, for example:
 - Children's programming to address gambling problems in sports
 - Informed counselling services for those affected

2019

[Click here to read the full case study](#)