



Online gambling

Online gambling refers to internet gambling, internet TV gambling and gambling on mobile devices.



Touch Casino,
Probability PLC

Under the NZ Gambling Act the only organisations who can manage or run Internet gambling within NZ are the TAB and the NZ Lotteries Commission.

However it is not illegal for anyone in NZ to gamble on international gambling sites.

Worldwide online gambling wagers are predicted to surpass \$48 billion (US) by 2015.¹¹

8-10% of New Zealanders have gambled online.^{1,2} These studies indicate that 2% of New Zealanders have gambled on "off-shore" sites. This figure may be artificially low, as people may not realise that sites are off-shore.

Twice as many men as women gamble online.¹⁰

One study showed that 17% of online gamblers were Maori, however that did have a small sample size.

However other research also showed that younger males, Asian and Maori are more likely to have participated in overseas gambling and are more likely to be considering this form of gambling.

Problem gambling rates among those who gamble on the Internet are 10 times higher than that of the general population.⁷

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Dangers of online gambling

- Speed of play
- 24/7 access
- Products are even more addictive
- Poor tools to stop underage gamblers
- Lack of safeguards to protect players
- The ease of hiding a gambling problem
- Being lured by "free" gambling sites
- Use of tokens hides fact that real money is being wagered

Speed of play

Speed of play is one of the most concerning aspects of online gambling. Whether it is online pokies, online scratchies, virtual table games, or even online sport wagering, you can play more games in a short period of time. And that means you have to pay more frequently to keep the play going – so you lose more money. The speed of these games requires full concentration, and that makes it easy to lose track of how long you've been playing.

The faster you play, the more you lose!

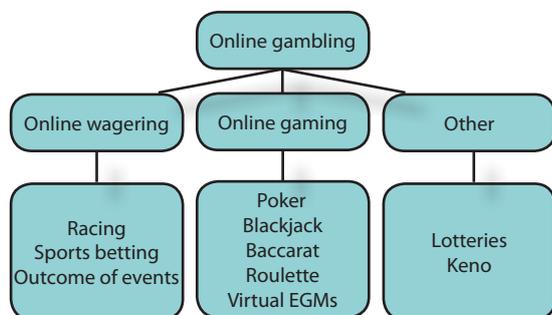
Online gambling products have the potential to be very harmful

24/7 Access

The Internet brings a form of gambling that never stops right into our homes. People who may have found casinos or other gambling venues inaccessible now have unlimited access to lottery sites, casino sites, and poker sites. For those already at risk for boredom or loneliness, having 24/7 access to electronic gambling sites puts them at even greater risk of developing gambling problems.

More addictive products

The Australian Productivity Commission puts the different types of online gambling products into the following groups.⁹



The differences between these groups are far less than the differences between their offline counterparts. This is because of the speed of play, the repetitive nature, and the intermittent reinforcement with colour and sound.

Underage gamblers

Although operators claim they prioritise the prevention of underage gambling through

“sophisticated age verification techniques” the fact is these are easily circumvented by children as these products are continuously streaming into homes or mobile devices.

Lack of safeguards

Online gambling can create huge regulatory problems as there are no national boundaries. The remote gambling environment makes it hard to police and that leaves it open for gambling operators to be less than scrupulous in making sure their sites abide by local gambling laws.

Hiding problem gambling

Online gambling takes gambling out of casinos, bars and clubs and moves it into the home. This allows problem gamblers to become even more anonymous and asocial. Staff in physical venues are required to have host responsibility training to identify and help people who may be at risk of developing problems with gambling. No such host responsibility exists with online gambling.

Virtual versus real gambling

‘Practice sites’ offer free games and free trials, with pop-up messages linked to pay sites. Practice sites tend to allow more winning streaks, but once a gambler plays for real money the odds are considerably reduced. Practice sites are increasingly offering ‘play for free, win for real’ options. This means they can use the ‘money’ they win on the free sites to bet on the real gambling sites, slowly pulling them in until they start to spend their own money.

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