**Author’s response to reviews**

**Title:** Assisting an Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person with gambling problems: A Delphi study

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**Author’s response to reviews:**

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Dear Editors,

Please see our response to the reviewers’ comments below.

Reviewer 1

Comment 1. I have spotted another limitation that should briefly be mentioned in the discussion section: No participant had a Torres Strait Islander background (p.7) although that cultural subgroup was in the focus of this research project.

Response: Page 17, line 408. The following sentence was added to the limitation section:

“Finally, although it was the intent to recruit Torres Strait Islander people to the expert panel, we were unable to do this and this may limit the applicability of these guidelines to this population.”
Comment 2. Referring to Comment 8: Simply removing the word "Although" does not change the contents, saying that at least a number of 23 experts seem to be ideal as a Delphi panel. In my opinion, this statement cannot be derived from the cited reference. To sort out any misunderstanding, please directly quote from Akins et al., 2005).

Response: Page 16, line 395. The sentence in question was deleted and the following one added:

“Akins, Tolson and Cole[30] found that “Panels of similarly trained experts (who possess a general understanding in the field of interest) provide effective and reliable utilization of a small sample from a limited number of experts [in this case 23] in a field of study to develop reliable criteria that inform judgment and support effective decision-making.”

Comment 3. Comment 7: I still disagree with the authors' assumption that a guideline with 225 items is practical to use. Therefore I suggest to further point out the need to validate the guidelines with appropriate methods (this should be elaborated with one or two sentences on p. 17, line 418ff).

Response: Page 17, line 414. The following sentence has been added: “Also, research could evaluate the perceived usefulness of downloading and reading these guidelines, as has previously been done for other sets of mental health first aid guidelines by Hart and colleagues [31]. Furthermore, research could be conducted to validate the identified signs of gambling problems or the effectiveness of the actions suggested in the guidelines.”

Reviewer 2

Comment 1. Background P 3, Line 71: "Indigenous research suggests that..." - suggest change to "Research with Indigenous populations in Australia suggests that..."

Response: Page 3, line 71. This rewording has been implemented exactly as the reviewer suggests.

Comment 2. P 4, Lines 82-85 "Research in Indigenous populations suggests that family, friends and the community can be a great source of help for gambling problems, if they have appropriate training [7,11]. Is it appropriate to expect family and friends to undergo training? I think most family and friends of problem gamblers are aware (but I agree that in many instances people with gambling problems become quite expert at hiding their problems. Suggest changing to (I think this will flow better to the next paragraph): "Research in Indigenous populations in Australia and internationally suggests that family, friends and the community can be a great source of help for gambling problems, if they have appropriate knowledge of and awareness of symptoms [7,11].
Response: Page 4, line 83. The rewording of this sentence has been implemented with a minor change. We think that family, friends, etc. need to have knowledge about more than just symptoms. Therefore, the following sentence was added:

“Research in Indigenous populations in Australia and internationally suggests that family, friends and the community can be a great source of help for gambling problems, if they have appropriate knowledge about how to recognise and support someone with gambling problems.”

Editor’s comment:

For the 'Availability of data and materials' section, please provide information about where the data supporting your findings can be found. We encourage authors to deposit their datasets in publicly available repositories (where available and appropriate), or to be presented within the manuscript and/or additional supporting files. Please note that identifying/confidential patient data should not be shared.

Response: Page 18, line 450. The following sentence was added to the “Availability of data and material” section:

“All data generated or analysed during this study are included in this published article [and its supplementary information files].”

Feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Kind Regards,

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