

**National Asian Gambling Forum  
6 May 2010**



# **The Impact of Gambling on Asian Families and Communities**

**Dr Amritha Sobrun-Maharaj  
Director, Centre for Asian Health Research and  
Evaluation (CAHRE)**



# Asian Demographics

- Fourth largest major ethnic group after European, Maori and Other Ethnicity
- 354,552 people (9.2%) in 2006
- Expected to grow to almost 15% of the national population by 2020



# Major Asian groups

- Chinese, Indians and Koreans
- 30-40% born overseas
- Some (15%) do not speak English



# Gambling

- Globally, increasing level of participation in gambling by Asians

(e.g., Bell & Lyall, 2002; Chinese Family Service of Greater Montreal, 1997; "The Stake", 2000; Victorian Casino and Gambling Authority, 1999).

- Asians are disproportionately affected by problem gambling

(e.g., Blaszczynski et al., 1998; Chinese Family Life Services of Metro Toronto, 1995; Cultural Partners Australia Consortium, 2000; Petry, Armentano, Kuoch, Norinth & Smith, 2003).



# Gap and Need

- Gap in knowledge of the issues and impacts of problem gambling on Asian families and communities; understanding of similarities and disparities amongst major Asian subgroups
- Clear need to obtain this information in New Zealand

# The Proposed Research

- Title: The impacts of problem gambling on Asian families and communities
- Led by the Centre for Asian Health Research and Evaluation (CAHRE)  
Principal Investigators:
  - Dr Amritha Sobrun-Maharaj
  - Dr Fiona Rossen
- Partnership with the Problem Gambling Foundation (PGF)  
Co-investigator
  - Mr John Wong

# Aims

- To meet the current gap in knowledge through:
  - Systematic review of the literature
  - Exploration and improved understanding of the role of risk and resiliency factors
  - Exploration and improved understanding of the antecedents and etiology of problem gambling
  - Identification and exploration of similarities and disparities amongst the major Asian subgroups

# Purpose

- To assist with the development of:
    - effective primary prevention measures
    - policy initiatives
- for this high-risk population



# Participants

- Asian problem gambling intervention services and health professionals
- Stakeholders from Chinese, Indian, Korean, South-east Asian, Asians with Refugee background



# Methodology and Methods

- Acculturation framework
- Qualitative, mixed methods
- Four phases:
  - **First phase** – Literature review
  - **Second phase** - Focus group discussions with Asian problem gambling intervention services and stakeholders
  - **Third phase** - Face-to-face interviews with individuals who have experienced problem gambling or been impacted by someone else's problematic gambling
  - **Fourth phase** - Verification of findings through stakeholder focus groups

# Timeframe

- 24 months – 30 April 2010 to 30 April 2012

# Location

- Phases one to three: Focus groups and individual interviews – Auckland
- Phase four: Stakeholder focus groups – Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, Christchurch

# Advisors

- Cultural Advisory Group – stakeholders with topical, research and cultural expertise
- International Advisor – AP Samson Tse
- PGF Public Health Worker – Dr Raj Singh

