

Mahjong Gambling and Chinese International Students in Sydney: An Exploratory Study

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International student education is a major industry in Australia, with students from Chinese backgrounds making up the largest single group. Adjusting to a new culture places demands on international students which may be met by social involvement with others from the same culture. Mahjong gambling is an avenue by which these students can enter social life in Australia in a culturally appropriate way. At the same time, the family and cultural barriers to heavy involvement in gambling on Mahjong are absent. Therefore, there is a basis for concern as to whether excessive Mahjong gambling may be a problem among Chinese students in Australia. To explore this possibility, a survey of 172 Chinese international students in Sydney was conducted. Results indicated that 26.2% of the sample played Mahjong for money in the previous twelve months. Importantly, 2.9% of the sample met Canadian Problem Gambling Index (CPGI) criteria for problem gambling. Male students and students from Hong Kong were significantly more likely to wager on Mahjong, with non-Mahjong gamblers revealing a more Western orientation compared to Mahjong gamblers. Since the sample cannot be

assumed to be representative of all Chinese students in Sydney, these results must be treated with caution. Nevertheless, the evidence strongly suggests that gambling on Mahjong is common among Chinese international students in Sydney and may be associated with substantial problems for a minority.

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摘要

國際學生教育是澳大利亞的一個重要產業，其中中國留學生代表著一大部分。通常學生們會利用學生之間的接觸來解決適應澳洲生活所帶來的問題。其中學生們利用麻將賭博來加入澳大利亞的社會生活。可是在國外，家庭和文化對嚴重麻將賭博的障礙卻不存在。所以，在這個基礎下，嚴重麻將賭博有可能為中國留學生帶來問題。這項研究調查了一百七十二位中國留學生的賭博習慣。結果顯示出百分之二十六點二的學生在十二個月中參加過麻將賭博，而且百分之二點九的學生在加拿大問題性賭博指數上被歸類於問題性賭博者。結果還發現男性留學生與香港留學生更有可能參加麻將賭博，而且不參加麻將賭博的學生更西方化。因為這些學生不能代表所有的中國留學生，所以結果應該小心的看待。但是，結果提議麻將賭博的確在悉尼中國留學生中存在，而且會對小部分的學生帶來問題。