

Youth Services

Newsletter - January 2006

Welcome to 2006

Kia ora and welcome to a new year.

2006 is bound to be a busy year for all of us, and the Youth team have some exciting projects ahead.

As mentioned in the November newsletter, we will be developing a draft pro-

gramme to educate Year 7 & 8 students about gambling, risk-taking and the odds. If you are interested in giving feedback or participating in focus groups via email or telephone conversations, please contact me.

I am pleased to announce

that PGF has a new Youth Worker for the Auckland area, Catherine Fitzsimmons. Catherine comes to PGF with a large amount of experience working with young people, and is very passionate about empowering young people with information to make choices about gam-

bling.

I look forward to working with you in 2006.

Lauren Cundall
(03) 379 2824 or email
lauren.cundall@pgfnz.co.nz

New PGF Youth Worker for Auckland

Kia ora and Happy New Year. I am very excited to have taken the role of PGF's Auckland youth worker. This role gives me the opportunity to once again work with youth.

I have worked as an educator raising awareness on issues such as addiction, drugs and alcohol; and in the school environment as a self-defence and stunt fighting instructor. I enjoy making a connection with young people on their level and watching them become more confident and self assured. I know that youth are determined

to make their own decisions, and with the right resources and education available they can make healthy and positive choices for themselves.

Working with youth is a passion of mine, and being part of a team that is educating youth in such a positive and uplifting way is a real honour.

Youth gambling is a problem within New Zealand and I believe it is important to empower our young people to make informed decisions on gambling and gambling related issues.

With gambling becoming so much a part of every day life it is getting harder for our youth to see that there is a flipside to gambling. Advertising suggests that gambling is a rewarding pastime and this needs to be balanced so that youth can see both sides of the coin.

I look forward to making contact and getting information out there especially to the 18-24 year old age group which is an area which up to now, hasn't been fully accessed. We should be able to reach

this age group more effectively with the new research being conducted.

Finally I wish to invite anyone who has any information or ideas that would benefit our network to please contact me on (09) 369 0621 or email Catherine.fitzsimmons@pgfnz.co.nz.



Young people and gambling: News from around the world

Pokies player left baby locked in car (NZ)

This story proves that children are also affected by problem gambling. Two Masterton men found a baby locked in a car in 30C degree heat outside a local pokie parlour.

When the men found the baby in the car, they asked at the bar and pokie parlour if anyone had a baby in a car outside. Four women inside, all denied having the child.

'It was only the so-called child minder's frantic attempts to get away before police came that stopped the men from breaking the car window'.

Police are investigating this form of child neglect.

For the full story go to:
<http://times-age.co.nz/localnews/storydisplay.cfm?storyID=3670242&thesection=localnews&thesubsection=>

Gambling's new teenage heroes - and victims (USA)

The current poker craze has had negative effects in the USA. Poker on the Internet, its popularity on TV and "colleges campuses awash in poker games" result in problem gambling agencies working with more youth.

'Parents who think their poker-playing kids are engaged in "harmless social function" should think twice. What are the risks that gamblers ... could wind up addicted? Researchers cite the "80-15-5" formula. Translation: 80% of gamblers will experience no ill effects; 15% will be at risk; and 5% are likely to become addicted, many ruining their lives.'

For the full press story:
<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2006/01/11/EDGIAGKSLR1.DTL>

Adolescence and problem gambling (Norway)

The Norwegian Government has released an action plan to prevent problem gambling in Norway. Of particular interest, was the necessity to put age restrictions on gambling (Part 2, pg 7-12).

An age limit of 18 years has been imposed on typical high risk gambling (e.g. Internet and pokies).

"Gambling which is defined as being in the high-risk category is not to be a past time for young people under the age of 18. This group is considered particularly vulnerable."

The document refers to the need for education in schools, as done in other countries. (PGF has done so for two years).

For the full document go to:
<http://www.lotteritilsynet.no/dav/8257d7c996.pdf>

Web Gambler Stole to Repay £26,000 loss (Britain)

A 21-year-old British woman was jailed for 12 months after stealing £26,218.08 to repay online gambling debts for herself and her boyfriend. They increasingly spent large amounts of money on online poker tables trying to win back losses.

"I made a stupid mistake and borrowed £1000 from work to try to win back money. I lost the £1000 and then the second lot I took was £6000. ... I tried to use that to pay back the £1000 plus on my credit card but I got more and more into debt with online gambling. We did win £5000 back at one stage but we wanted to carry on gambling to win back the full amount and then we lost the winnings."

For the full story go to:
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/gambling/story/0,,1675814,00.html>

Website of the month: Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals

This website is fun, interactive and informative for children, young people, teachers and parents. The website has quizzes on facts, identifies symptoms, and related links to other helpful websites for young people.

Useful sections include a kids' corner with facts from swamp characters, and frequently asked questions for parents and children. This is a great opportunity for young people who are afraid to ask for help, to see how

problem gambling can affect them and others around them. A frog gives interesting facts on each page, and the facts page stresses the growing relationship between problem gambling and crime.

Visit http://www.thegamble.org/f_home.htm

For more information on these stories contact Lauren Cundall on (03) 379 2824 or email lauren.cundall@pgfnz.co.nz