

Redefining Youth Gambling - Youth Week 2006

We celebrate young people with the launch of Youth Week 2006 (May 15th - 21st). Youth Week started in 1995 with a handful of youth-focussed events scattered around Canada. Since then, countries all around the world have adopted the week with their interpretation of what a "celebration of youth" means to them.

This years theme of RE:DEFINE is about

challenging stereotypes and seeing young people for who they really are rather than how society sees them. PGF has embraced this theme and is running a national short story competition. Young people (aged 13-18 years) are encouraged to create a fictional piece which challenges the normalisation of gambling in society and encourages their peers to think of gambling as more than just a recreational activity.

The competition is linked to the theme of challenging stereotypes as it encourages young people to break the myth that young people cannot become problem gamblers. By encouraging young people to have their voices heard it is hoped that the realities of young peoples experiences in a world where gambling opportunities are available twenty four hours a day, seven days a week will be heard.

Posters and entry forms are available for those organizations wishing to advertise this opportunity to their young people.

Go to www.pgfnz.co.nz/youth for more information or contact Lauren Cundall, Youth Services Project Team Leader on (03) 379-2824 or Lauren.Cundall@pgfnz.co.nz

national short story competition

Create a piece of writing which challenges gambling as normalised behaviour in our society and which encourages people to think about gambling as more than a recreational activity.

Explore the potential risks and consequences of gambling and break the myth that young people can't become problem gamblers.

800 - 1000 words. Closing Date Friday April 28. Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place.

Send entries - along with completed entry form - to: Lauren Cundall, Youth Services Team Leader, PO Box 13 094, Armagh, Christchurch. Email: Lauren.Cundall@pgfnz.co.nz

Don't forget that entries for the short story competition can be eligible for the **Young Person's Initiative Award**.

Get involved in Youth Week, and let us know of how your organisation is raising awareness about youth and problem gambling by emailing Lauren Lauren.cundall@pgfnz.co.nz

It could be something really creative, such as artwork, drama or running an alternatives to gambling day.



Young people and gambling: News from around the world

Parenting Styles and Family Environments (Canada)

This article explores the connection between parenting styles and its influence on youth gambling.

“Poor family environments, characterised by high levels of conflict and low levels of cohesion, were found to significantly increase the likelihood of gambling problems among youth.”

- Authoritarian and permissive parenting styles more common for youth with gambling problems
- Authoritative-flexible parenting styles less common for youth with gambling problems

For the full article go to:
www.youthgambling.com
Click on YGI Newsletter,
Spring 2006

Online Poker Hooks Teenagers (Britain)

Adolescents and young people playing online poker is still a worldwide concern. In this article, three young men tell how they developed online gambling problems.

Steve, a 17-year-old from Edinburgh, “thinks about poker ‘pretty much all the time,’ gets ‘a real buzz from a good hand of cards, and admits the game distracts him from his college work and social life.”

“Adolescents tend to be impulsive and think of themselves as risk-takers. The adrenaline rush is there whether they are winning or losing.” (Research by Professor Jeff Derevensky, McGill University’s International Centre for Youth Gambling, Canada).

For the full story go to:
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/gambling/story/0,,1729147,00.html>

Pokies pull parents, children suffer (NZ)

There have been several cases recently, of parents leaving children in cars while they gamble on pokie machines.

In the last month, three Masterton women have left their children in hot cars, on hot days, while they gamble.

“The pokies are pulling parents into a trance-like state, with their lights, noises and promises of winning. Young children are left to suffer, often in hot cars in hot weather,” says Mr Stansfield.”

This proves that problem gambling also affects not only young people and adults, but also young children.

To see other cases and the full press release go to:
http://www.pgfnz.co.nz/PR_pokies%20pull%20parents.htm

Campuses slow to deal with growth in gambling (USA)

Each issue of our newsletter highlights the problem of online gambling in tertiary institutes around the world. US University administrators may finally address the problem.

Students are betting large amounts of time and money, but are seen by the industry as, “the prize demographic for arresting cable-TV poker competitions and glittery betting websites.”

Most schools have no formal or informal policy on gambling, which risks students developing gambling problems.

Experts in the article agree that education about gambling risks needs to start at a young age.

For the full story go to:
<http://www.csmonitor.com/2006/0125/p13s02-legn.html>

Website of the month: Youth Gambling International

This website is for McGill University’s Centre for Youth Gambling in Montreal. It is beneficial for both teachers and parents, and young people. The website puts out a quarterly newsletter about young people and gambling, with latest international research.

A very useful section is Just for Youth (<http://www.education.mcgill.ca/gambling/en/justforyouth.htm>). This section explains to young people, in informal lan-

guage, how gambling problems can affect them and others. It clarifies myths and facts, and young people tell their own stories.

Visit <http://www.youthgambling.com>

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