

A New Youth Service in the Bay of Plenty

Greetings from Rotorua! I am Chrissi Clement and I have been recently appointed as a youth worker for the Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand. I will be working primarily in Rotorua, Kawerau, Whakatane and Opotiki.

Rotorua has been my home for 29 years and I have raised five children here. I have worked for a number of years as a secondary school teacher, specialising in drama, English, geography and

teaching gifted children. While teaching I began training as a counsellor. I also provide a counselling service for the Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand in the towns mentioned above.

I have spent some time looking at ways of becoming involved effectively with young people in this area. I am starting to work in conjunction with the local high schools to integrate ideas in to their health programmes that will

encourage resilience to possible gambling harms.

The prevalence of gambling amongst the young people in New Zealand is increasing at a concerning rate. Studies show that high school students are not perturbed by age limits and legality. A staggering 54% have used a pokie machine. Problem gambling amongst young people is estimated to be two to three times higher than in the adult population.

When we consider these statistics, the importance of a service for the youth of our country is undeniable.

I can be contacted by phone at 07 343 9999 or 027 276 7928, or by email chrissi.clement@pgfnz.co.nz.



Young Person's Initiative Award to Drury Primary School student

Alex Wiggans from Auckland's Drury Primary School received a Young Person's Initiative Award for his school speech on gambling in New Zealand.

Alex, a Year 5 student at Drury School, contacted PGF's Communications Officer, Phillipa Reddy to research for his speech gambling in New Zealand and its impact on communities.

Alex's teacher, Mrs Keen, contacted PGF to say that Alex gave an excellent and thought provoking speech.

"Often it is high school or tertiary students who need information about gambling for school assignments. It was a real buzz to see that this is an issue that is noticed by primary school students," says Phillipa Reddy.

"All too often we see or hear of the effects of problem gambling on young children, so it was exciting to be able to present this award to a young boy who was aware of these effects and wanted to raise awareness of problem gambling with his classmates and teacher," says Catherine Fitzsimons.

Phillipa joined youth worker Catherine

Fitzsimons, and Lil' Tyrone to present Alex with the Young Person's Initiative Award at his school assembly on Tuesday 10th October.



Young people and gambling: News from around the world

Nova Scotia youth not worried about gambling risks (Canada)

Research firm D-Code Inc released research for the Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation that found that youth did not perceive gambling as a risky behaviour. The research explored gambling attitudes and behaviours of 499 youth (15-20yrs) and 37 youth (13-20yrs) in online focus groups.

“There’s no question underage youth are gambling, but the problem is most of them don’t see this as risky behaviour.”

The report identified a need for effective education about gambling risks. Research insights included a higher number of youth gambling online, and youth not perceiving gambling as risky.

For the full story go to:
http://www.nsgc.ca/news.php?news_id=5

Parents for Poker (New Zealand)

Poker games between American teens is becoming more popular in America, with the support of many parents.

“Schools throughout the country offer casino nights, using play money or raffles, as a way to keep kids from going to unsupervised parties, with their attendant risks of alcohol and drunk driving. And almost everywhere, parents gladly throw poker games for the teenage children, particularly boys.”

Experts such as Jeffery Derevensky (McGill University, Canada) disagree with poker-playing and gambling between parents and children, but stress the importance of moderation and awareness of the risks versus abstinence.

For the full story go to:
<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1538649,00.html>

Underage Gambling: Taking a Chance on America’s Youth (America)

Online gambling is still a concern in American colleges, and among teenagers, with experts saying that adolescents are two to three times more likely to have a serious gambling problem than adults.

Adolescents learn this behaviour from parents via scratchie tickets in cards or Christmas stockings.

“For many teenagers, experts say, gambling is as common and seemingly benign as playing a video game or instant messaging.”

Experts claim there is not enough education about the risks of gambling. For this reason the Wanna Bet website was created.

For the full story go to:
http://www.medillnewsdc.com/gambling/gambling_underage.shtml

Pepsi Hounded Over Gambling (Australia)

A recent promotion by Pepsi cola has come under criticism from the Victorian Interchurch Gambling Taskforce and the Melbourne Anglican Social Responsibilities Committee.

Pepsi is running a competition in which entrants can win a share in a racing greyhound, and cash. The competition is advertised to entrants over 18 years of age, but there are fears that gambling is being promoted to younger children.

Rev. Graham Reynolds of the Gambling Taskforce commented, “[But] There is this culture coming across of promoting gambling to kids, and that is what our big concern is.”

Please see the following page for the full story and a link to the competition on Pepsi’s website.

Website of the month: Gambling - WannaBet?

WannaBet is an brightly coloured website that is targeted towards 13-14 year olds. The information provided is written in a way that is mature - but not too childish for this age group.

Of particular interest, is “Andy’s Story”, a short video clip in which Andy describes his gambling problem and answers questions from other young people. Another page of interest is the section entitled “Your

stories” which encourages young people to submit their own stories about gambling. Pages on facts why kids gamble and “Games and Fun” are useful for parents, teachers and children.

Visit the website at: www.wannabet.org

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

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Pepsi hounded over gambling

By Emily Power

October 6, 2006

AUSTRALIA — Softdrink giant Pepsi has been accused of promoting to young people through its latest advertising campaign.

Pepsin is running a competition in which entrants over 18 can win a share in a racing greyhound.

The promotion has angered the Victorian Interchurch Gambling Taskforce and the Melbourne Anglican Social Responsibilities Committee.

Gambling taskforce member the Rev. Graham Reynolds said linking a young person's product with betting could spark an addiction.

"If it is done with scotch whiskey, fine, because you have to be 18 to buy it. But Pepsi cola? You can be two years old and buy it," Mr Reynolds said.

"Adults, theoretically, are mature and can make their decisions and they are aware of the risks.

"But there is this culture coming across of promoting gambling to kids, and that is what our big concern is."

A spokesperson from Pepsi Australia was not available for comment yesterday.

** Please click on the link to see Pepsi's website for the Dog Racing promotion*
<http://www.dollarsordog.com.au/>

