

Lauren Cundall - New Youth Project Leader



Kia ora and warm greetings to you all.

My name is Lauren Cundall. I have recently

taken on the role of youth services co-ordinator for the Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand (PGF) based in Christchurch.

To begin with, I would like to thank Clare Docherty for all she has done with the Youth Project, and wish her well in her future journeys through life. Clare left PGF in mid-September to pursue other dreams.

Although this role is a new one for me, I am not new to the organisation, or to the area of youth gambling. I have been employed by PGF for two years – working in the Youth Services Team for the South Island, in the

Health Promotion team, and in the Territorial Local Authority Team.

This new move sees the majority of my work shift to a youth focus, which is very much an area of passion for me. I firmly believe that our young people are faced with a future where the gambling opportunities will become even more abundant than they are at present (which is a scary thought!) and that it is our responsibility as those who work with young people to ensure that they educated and able to make informed decisions about the variety of gambling opportunities that are on their doorstep.

We have several new areas that may be of interest to you – firstly we are seeking input on a programme that we have developed for year 7 & 8 students. We are seeking involvement in an advisory group to give feedback on this resource. If

this would be of interest to you please contact me – it would be great to have you on board.

Secondly, we are undertaking some research about appropriate interventions for the 18-24 year-old age group. As we know these young people may or may not connect in tertiary institutions, so its about looking at the bigger picture – how can we get our messages about gambling issues to these young people?

Finally, we are always on the lookout for youth initiatives in the area of eliminating harm or raising awareness about problem gambling issues. If anything should come across your path that you feel deserves recognition in this area, please contact me.

We have a few small changes to the newsletter. Along with our usual stories from around the world, we will have a personal story or anecdote about how problem gambling affects young people. There will also be a section of events the Youth Team have covered, and any events coming up.

If you have any stories, events or information that would benefit our network, please contact me. Our next newsletter will be out in mid-November.

I am really excited to take on this new opportunity, and I look forward to making contact with you all over the upcoming year.

Lauren

For more information about the Youth Project, or to contact the Youth Project Team please contact Lauren Cundall on (03) 379 2824 or email lauren.cundall@pgfnz.co.nz



Young people and gambling: News from around the world

Problem gamblers share personality profiles of substance abusers (NZ)

An Otago University research study found that problem gamblers shared similar traits as other substance abusers. The research interviewed 939 young adults with diagnoses of problem gambling and alcohol, cannabis and nicotine dependence, aged 18 and three years later aged 21 years old.

“Young adults with a diagnosis of problem gambling were characterised by negative emotions such as nervousness or worry, anger or aggressiveness, feeling mistreated or victimised, and unconstrained behaviours of risk-taking, impulsivity and rebelliousness.”

For more details go to:
http://www.otago.ac.nz/news/news/2005/05b-07-05_press_release.html

National poker craze could create a generation of problem gamblers (USA)

Young people are at a greater risk of developing gambling problems with the expansion of gambling through a variety of avenues.

“The earlier someone starts gambling, the more likely he or she will become an adult problem gambler, research shows.”

“The other theory says these kids who grow up now with these problems, they're only going to escalate because once they get more access (to gambling), what's going to happen?” Derevensky said.”

For the full story go to:
<http://www.duluthsuperior.com/mld/duluthsuperior/news/nation/12274974.htm>

Raising the stakes on Radio 1 (UK)

A BBC website has highlighted gambling as an issue of concern for young people in Britain. The site contains three “real-life” stories of young people with gambling problems [to view their stories click the back arrow at the bottom of the web page] and leads on to the documentary. Stories include:

- American poker champ recognised in the street by eight-year olds
 - 20-year old croupier who sees working on cruise ship casinos as a way to travel the world
 - A 21-year old compulsive gambler who began with football and progressed to the races
- *RealPlayer required

For the documentary go to: http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio1/onelife/health/addiction/raising_the_stakes.shtml

My College Addiction (USA)

A Yale University study has found that “people who begin gambling as adolescents or young adults are likelier than adult gamblers to abuse drugs and alcohol and suffer from depression.”

“In the US last year, 68% of adults reported gambling legally, and about half of children between the ages of 12 and 17 reported gambling as well, even though it is illegal for minors.”

This is proof that young people around the world are gambling illegally and getting themselves into difficulties - not only with gambling but also with other substances.

For the full story go to:
<http://www.narsad.org/news/press/pr2005-06-10.html>

“Get Risky” video resource collaboration between He Oranga Pounamu and PGF

A video resource aimed at 11-16 year old Maori rangatahi is being produced by Tahu Communications in Christchurch. He Oranga Pounamu, with assistance from PGF, secured funding for the video’s production.

The presenter takes viewers through a number of stories about young people dealing with gambling opportunities and the challenges they face from this, and encourages critical thinking around issues such as risk-

taking behaviours and the illusion of control. Filming is due to begin in September.

For more information contact Lauren Cundall
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