

Youth Services

Newsletter - September 2006

Lil' Tyrone: New Star On The Rise

Lil Tyrone is a man with a message for young people about problem gambling. He had the opportunity through PGF to record a song with Dawn Raid Entertainment about the effects of gambling harm on young people and families.

Catherine Fitzsimons, PGF's Auckland youth worker, presented to the XSeed Foundation, an alternative based education system, at which Lil' Tyrone attends. He wrote a song about his personal experiences with problem gambling in his family to coincide with Gamble Free Day, Friday September 1st).

His song "We Gotta Stop" is based on personal experiences with a family relative who has a gambling problem. His message is warning young people about its destructive effects on families.

Lil' Tyrone's song captured the attention of Brotha D from Dawn Raid Entertainment, who subsequently recorded the song, with the assistance of Mareko, one of New Zealand's top hip-hop producers. DJCXL - New Zealand's top DJ worked on the single's "scratches" to make it more appealing to the commercial music media.

Catherine Fitzsimons says, "We provided a platform for Lil' Tyrone to be a voice for his community and peers. He is the light at the end of the tunnel for them."

The single was released on Gamble Free Day at the Dawn Raid studio to whanau, friends, PGF workers and the media.

"We Gotta Stop" was played during Gamble Free Day events, and to delegates attending the 2006 International Gambling conference held

earlier this month. He has also received airtime on Auckland's Mai Fm and Flava FM.

Lil' Tyrone is currently working on his debut album.

For more information contact Catherine Fitzsimons on (09) 369 0621 or email catherine.fitzsimons@pgfnz.org.nz



Leah's Story

Leah is a thirteen year-old girl that has lived with her mum's serious gambling problem.

Up until two years ago, her mother's gambling problem that nearly ruined their relationship.

Leah lived her mother's gambling problem for eleven years of her life, which led to trust issues between mother and daughter.

"Mum asked to borrow \$8 of my birthday money and she promised to pay it

back, but she never did."

"Mum used to say she was going to the supermarket when we lived in town but I didn't believe her. I thought she was sneaking off to McDonalds to eat McDonalds without me, but when I followed her

she went the other way and I knew she was going to the pub to gamble, and I felt sad."

For two years, Brenda has been gamble-free. Their relationship has improved and Leah is able to trust her mum again.



Young people and gambling: News from around the world

Schools Teach Gambling Risk (Scotland)

Research released in Scotland last month revealed that up to a tenth of children have a gambling problem.

The Responsibility in Gambling Trust provide educational materials to educate children about the psychological and financial ramifications of gambling.

“Martin Buckiewicz, the chief executive of the health education charity, Tacade, who is drawing up the materials, says that ‘youth gambling is a growing problem and the more available it is, the more of a problem it is.’”

That is why we need to have materials that help to prevent the problem.”

For the full story go to:
<http://news.scotsman.com/education.cfm?id=1351272006>

Indiana moves to fight youth gambling addictions (America)

After-school programs in Indiana, that educate youths on the effects of drugs, are now teaching them about the effects of gambling problems.

Studies have revealed that 35% of sixth-graders and 55% of twelfth-graders have been involved in some form of gambling.

Other states are considering programs to address to teen gambling, as access to gambling has increased.

“The program will deal specifically with how to recognise when someone has a gambling problem and offers suggestions for dealing with friends or family members who have gambling problems.”

For the full story go to
http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-09-06-teen-gambling_x.htm

Gambling With A Child’s Life (Australia)

The Australian Government has ordered a review into “life-like” toy slot machines.

An investigation has revealed that children as young as four are playing with them. Parents and welfare groups are concerned that these toys are an introduction to gambling for children.

With gambling problems rife in the community, the sale of the toy slot machines has alarmed parents and welfare groups who want them banned.

“Psychologists have warned that gambling at an early age could develop into a gambling problem in later life.”

For the full story go to:
<http://www.news.com.au/dailytelegraph/story/0,22049,20468589-5006009,00.html>

School Says No To Gambling Cash (Canada)

An elementary school in Canada has refused to accept provincial grants as it is funded by gambling.

South Park Elementary does not want to send the message that they are making money off gambling.

South Park’s decision was difficult as it does not allow its students to fundraise. Instead it relies on annual auctions and pizza days.

Rosemary Mann, a parent of the school, says that “the government should fully fund education, making fundraising unnecessary.”

For the full story go to:
<http://www.canada.com/victoriatimescolonist/news/story.html?id=42972588-41f6-4bfe-803b-a78d52716cca>

Website of the month: It’s Your Lucky Day!

This website is aimed primarily for children at Grades 7 and 8 (12-13 years). It is a useful teaching resource to educate children about the harmful effects of gambling.

You can take a quiz, find out how gambling works and check out the myths around gambling. What makes this website cool is that it speaks to children about problem gambling. Speech bubbles allow the kids in the website to talk about interesting facts about gambling. From a

teaching perspective, it is very easy to have the site on data show, and explore each of the links together. Interesting pages include “What is Gambling?” and “Myths”.

Visit the website at: <http://www.luckyday.ca>

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