

TE RŌPŪ ĀWHINA MATE PETIPETI O AOTEAROA  
**Problem Gambling Foundation  
of New Zealand**



# The Hidden Statistics: Gambling & Crime

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## Slide 2

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**JW1**

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Jude West, 11/08/2006

# Is Gambling linked to crime and safer communities?

Are drugs and prostitution linked to crime?

Cornerstones of organised crime

- **G**ambling
- **D**rugs
- **P**rostitution



# Gambling in New Zealand

## 2005

- Annual turnover in gambling \$ 14.4 billion
- Annual turnover in Health Service \$ 7.5 billion
- Total Amount Lost \$ 2.03 billion
- Total Lost on Pokie Machines \$ 1.03 billion



Source: Department of Internal Affairs 2006

# Our client...Your statistic

- Typical of men who are problem gamblers
- Married, with young children
- Works long hours to service high debt



*Fred's problem did not happen by chance*

# Our client...Your statistic

- Reluctant to seek help
- Harm caused by problem gambling
- Gambling linked with
  - Family history of gambling
  - Relationship problems
  - Poverty and debt



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# Problem Gambling...Your Statistic

## 2003 MoH study shows

- **Pokies sited in the most vulnerable communities**
  - 47% venues in deciles 8, 9 & 10
  - 56% Maori & 72% Pacific people in these deciles
  - Decile 9 = 1 machine per 75 people
  - Decile 1 = 1 machine per 465



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# Our Client...Problem Gambling

- **Gambling escalated out of control**
  - Urge to gamble
  - Desire to win
- **Increased debt leads to criminal activity**
  - Drugs
  - Selling stolen goods
- **Increased stress leads to family violence**
  - Emotional, verbal, financial and physical



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# Problem Gambling...Your Community

- **1.2% (49,000) of kiwis are problem gamblers**
  - Only 12% seek help
  - 7 others affected by gambler's behaviour
- **Drain on community resources**
  - Social services, Community Services
  - Law Enforcement, Mental Health
- **Availability and access to Gaming Machines**



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# Our client...Your statistic

- **Community harm**
  - Reliance on social services
- **Family harm**
  - Loss of income and increased debt
  - Loss of father and relationships
- **Personal harm**
  - Criminal convictions and prison sentence
  - Relationship problems



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# Gambling and Crime...Your Statistic

- Problem Gambling is a catalyst to criminal offending
- 1/3 of all prison inmates are problem gamblers
- Women report early offending due to gambling
  - 25% of women inmates committed crimes to obtain money to gamble
- Many crimes go unreported by employers



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# Your Community...Safer Community Audit

- 2004 Porirua Safer Community Trust Safety Audit rated
  - Gambling higher than any other crime problem by 20-39 yr olds
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> behind illegal drugs by 40-59 yr olds
  - Overall gambling rated ahead of all other crime problems

*(illegal drugs, boy racers, property damage, youth offending, under age drinking, burglary, theft from vehicles, family violence, disorderly behaviour, theft of vehicles)*

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# Gambling...Benefits Your Community?

- Gambling is illegal unless proceeds (min 33%) distributed to charitable purposes
- While some money comes back to the community - most does not
- No guarantee it will be used where needed
- Gambling Industry lack of accountability by claiming commercial sensitivity



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# Gambling Costs...Your Community

- Increased gambling in a community results in...
  - Increased crime
  - Increased domestic violence
  - Increased poverty
  - Increased demands on under-funded social service agencies



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# Our client...Your statistic

- 18 months prison
- Possibility of Home Detention
- 7 years to repay gambling debts
- Career and earnings harm
- Relationship and family harm



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# Your Community...Proposed Solutions

- **Reducing access / opportunities**
  - Locking of side entrances to gaming rooms
- **Lobby for legislation changes to allow for...**
- **Alternative community involvement model**
  - Similar to Australian model
  - Greater local involvement in licensing
  - Centralised funding
  - Local control over distributing losses



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# Your Community...Proposed Solutions

- **Alternative community control model**
  - Establish local trusts
  - Elected Trustees
  - Losses kept within community
  - More equitable distribution of grants
  - Local accountability / control
  - Substantially reduces opportunities for criminal activity



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# PGF in New Zealand

## The Foundation is

- largest organisation of its kind in the world
- largest single treatment provider for problem gambling in Australasia.
- Over 70 staff operating from over 50 clinics throughout NZ
- Asian Services Team – Chinese, Cantonese and Korean
- Multi-cultural Health Promotion team and youth services
- Local Government Advisory Services

# PGF Resources

[www.problem-gambling.info](http://www.problem-gambling.info)

- 'one-stop' resource for community groups, researchers & counsellors on problem gambling.
- Includes extensive links to global websites and online newsletters
- Also contains links for problem gamblers' support services.

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**0800 664 262**

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