



Impact of gambling on young people living in Galiwin'ku

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Please note: The Chief Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians is an independent advisory body. The views expressed in this report are those of the author and are not necessarily reflective of those of the Office of Youth Affairs or the Northern Territory Government.



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Chief Minister Adam Giles MLA
and Ministerial Colleagues
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Dear Chief Minister and Ministerial Colleagues

I am Sebastian Pascoe, I come from Galiwin'ku Community also known as Elcho Island. Galiwin'ku is about 400 kilometres North East from Darwin in Arnhem Land and nearly 4000 people live there.

I work for East Arnhem Shire as a Sport and Recreation Development Officer in my community. One of my roles is to participate in the youth program called Young Men's Program, helping younger men get ready to and look for work. This includes applying for drivers licence etc. I tell them the story about how drugs, alcohol and chroming affect people.

My main concern for younger people however is not only about stopping drugs and alcohol, but messages about gambling. I see all children grow up to play cards. That is ok, but nothing is being told about how gambling affects people later on.

I really worry for our future in Galiwin'ku, how children grow up in this community thinking that gambling doesn't affect people in any way. I see younger kids as young as six to seven years old playing and it makes me sad.

I want to really try my hardest and best way to educate and help my younger generation to find jobs, keep jobs for a long time and work until they are old in Galiwin'ku. I want to teach them to earn money from working not gambling. I think people in my community think gambling is not an issue. These are some of the issue points:

- mother and father play cards all night and no one is home looking after the kids
- mother and father waste all their money on gambling and have nothing to buy food the next day
- people lose money then start fighting with the family because they lost money

The list of issues goes on, people say the issue is little and people can sort it out but people do not realise the effects on everyone in the family and community later on in life. I myself had this experience as a child where my mother and father had this sort of issue.

For my time on the Chief Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians I made a movie in my community with some friends to show effects I see of gambling including no money for food and fighting.

Some positive things are already happening to help this issue:

- The ALPA store is already providing food cards or vouchers ranging from \$20, \$50 and \$100 to help community families
- Money management (Centrelink) provide Basic Cards by reducing cash and put half costs on the Basic Card so money is not wasted on other bad things like gambling

I know help is available. I recommend the NT Government help this issue by:

- I get funding to make talking posters in our language, Yolngu Matha, to educate the younger generation in my community
- Money management education is a good way of educating people about the money man. I think how money gets managed for better use needs to include gambling
- I get support from the NT Government to encourage our leaders in my community and the wiser people to have involvement talking and educating our youths
- I get support from the NT Government to have more barbeques and video nights and show my movie about gambling
- the NT Government (Police and Night Patrol) restrict card games in community:
 - 7:00pm – 10:00pm weekdays (Monday to Thursday)
 - 7:00pm – 11:00pm Friday and Saturday
 - no gambling on Sundays
 - no gambling on Centrelink pay day.

Yours sincerely

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1 December 2013