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From: [jbminto](#)

To: [Undisclosed-Recipient:](#)

Sent: Monday, September 10, 2007 10:24 PM

Subject: Put Pokies under the hammer - campaign proposal - please circulate

Put pokies under the hammer

- campaign proposal -

This proposal is being presented by Global Peace and Justice Auckland as part of our Parasites on Poverty Campaign which aims to stop loan sharks and pokies from their parasitical practices in New Zealand communities (mainly low income communities)

Please read through the proposal outlined below and come to the meeting to discuss it. The meeting is being held at –

Trades Hall
147 Great North Road, Grey Lynn
Monday 1st October
7.30pm

Please forward this proposal and meeting invitation around your networks.

Background

- Pokie machines are eating the heart out of our communities.
- 88% of people referred to problem gambling organisations have pokies as their addiction. (Compare this to the 0.6% who are addicted to either lotto, scratchies and keno combined)
- 47% of pokie venues are in the poorest one third of our communities. This is also where 56% of Maori and 72% Pacific peoples live.
- Put another way, in our high incomes communities there is one pokie machine for every 465 people but in our lowest income communities there is one machine for every 75 people. Let's not kid ourselves who these machines are designed to suck money from.
- An estimated 50,000 New Zealanders now suffer from severe problem gambling. (For example in a small Maori community in an isolated rural area, twice a week the locals get into cars to drive 150km to the nearest pokie machines to feed their addictions)

- People gamble on pokies through a mixture of desperation and hope.
- There are 20,302 pokie machines in New Zealand – up from 14,000 when Labour led the government from 1999. (Numbers peaked in 2003 and have been dropping very slowly since)
- More than one billion dollars is lost from New Zealand communities each year from pokies.
- Some of the proceeds of gambling fund community groups but communities lose \$3 for every \$1 given in community grants.
- The proceeds don't even end up in the fleeced community. (For example one trust owning pokie machines in a South Auckland hotel sends the proceeds to a pony club in a wealthy Auckland suburb).
- Governments have been impervious to the views of the community. Despite the people of Hamilton being overwhelmingly opposed to a casino licence being issued in their city it was deemed through a government body to be in the “national interest” that they have one.
- Global Peace and Justice Auckland has asked the government to require all local authorities to hold referenda on pokies alongside the local body elections later this year. The government has declined.

Proposal

That the Parasites on Poverty campaign website set up an on-line register for people to register their hammers for acts of civil disobedience.

When there are a minimum 200 hammers registered an evening meeting will be called in a local Auckland community, a pokie venue will be visited, the machines disconnected and removed to the footpath where the hammers will be put to work.

Objectives

- To sharpen public debate about the destructive effects of pokies.
- To reduce the number of machines operating.
- To embarrass local authorities and government into action to close down on pokies.
- To begin a shift of democratic power back to local communities

Invitation

Anyone interested in the health of our local communities is invited to attend the meeting. Please think about this proposal and extend the invitation to individuals and networks to which you belong.

Remember the meeting is at

**Trades Hall
147 Great North Road, Grey Lynn
Monday 1st October
7.30pm**

We look forward to seeing you on the 1st

Regards,

John Minto
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