



Te Ope Whakaora

New Zealand, Fiji & Tonga Territory

Caring for people. Transforming lives. Reforming society.



The Salvation Army Oasis

International Gambling Conference

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A Perfect Storm / What Lies Beneath

- We will explore what lies beneath the surface of clients presenting to our services
- Co-existing presenting issues
 - Poverty, Marginalisation, Homelessness
 - Addiction and Mental HealthAnd how these collide resulting in inter-generational patterns of behaviour
- How can we assist clients to ride out the storm in one piece?





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A Perfect Storm - Gambling

- Belief in one big win or early big win
- Escape pressures of life
- Lying to hide money/time spent gambling, AOD use
- Financial burden
- Family breakdown
- This storm contributes to and exacerbates poor mental health and coexisting issues





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A Perfect Storm

- Poverty
 - AOD and gambling venues are most often concentrated in lower income communities
 - Often fewer community resources in these neighbourhoods but plenty of liquor, fast food outlets, gambling, TAB, pawn and money lending shops.
 - We suggest that is a predator-like environment.





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A Perfect Storm

- Poverty & Employment issues
 - Difficulty in getting/maintaining employment as left school early
 - Employed in low paying roles
 - Rostered and part-time work only
 - Low productivity – particularly when gambling is compulsive and dominating their lives or under influence of drugs and alcohol
- These factors all contribute to financial stress and often unsustainable debt





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A Perfect Storm

- Poverty excludes people from many aspects of family and community life.
- It could be described as being on the margins, or marginalised
 - Can't afford membership or fee for sports and other community activities
 - Avoid people and participation because of shame (from addiction) & withdraw from family and community
- Poor mental health itself contributes to isolation and marginalisation
- Homelessness & criminality can emerge in these conditions





The Perfect Storm

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- Impacts from addiction, poor mental health, poverty and marginalisation are felt through each level of a family system
- With children becoming unintentional victims and then perpetrating or experiencing intergenerational patterns
- These are the patterns we see in clients presenting through our range of services
- It is from this basis we suggest a holistic response to people exhibiting the impacts of all these factors





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How to Ride the Storm

- Any door is the right door to enter services
- We also recognise the need to identify the signs, symptoms and impacts of this perfect storm
- We see the need for gambling, AOD and mental health screening across all the services we provide
- Only then can we deliver effective intervention and circuit breakers





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How to Ride the Storm

- There are no simple answers
- It cannot be assumed that each issue can be treated separately,
- Or in a 'one size fits all' approach
- In reality we tend to work in silos and the lack of coordination undermines effectiveness
- We need to take a collective approach
- Shared information and communication will significantly improve outcomes





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How do we ride the storm together?

- There are models that work in this way already
 - Whanau ora collectives
 - Collective Impact approaches
- So we need to reflect and challenge ourselves, our organisations and our funders –
 - When peoples lives are tossed about in this perfect storm, how does our work ensure they have a safe harbour to land in?

