

# Safer Partying Using Theatre-In-Education, Nelson, New Zealand



An initiative of:

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Kaunihera Whakatupato Waipiro o Aotearoa



## WHAT IS CHOICES?

**CHOICES 2011 is a Safer Partying project** using theatre-in-education to promote safer partying to high school and alternative education students aged approximately 13 to 16. CHOICES was originally aimed to help at-risk young people, however the subject matter is relevant to all young people on some level.

### **BACKGROUND**

Originally developed by HYPE-GS, Mess Up The Mess Theatre Company and Health Action Trust, **CHOICES** was created in Nelson in 2008, based on young people's personal experiences and stories of when partying went wrong.

The stories were developed into a script with the help of Nelson/Tasman young people and four youth actors. The stories portrayed in **CHOICES** are not their actual stories but a collection of different issues raised by young people in relation to partying. (Please note that partying could refer to any type of gathering involving young people).

### **AIMS**

- 1. Promote safer partying techniques and openly and realistically discuss youth risk-taking behaviour.
- 2. Ensure young people are empowered to make informed choices with regard to how they party.
- 3. Improve youth sexual, physical, mental and emotional health.
- 4. Reduce the levels of crime carried out and criminalisation of young people as a result of partying.
- 5. Open up a dialogue with young people over current partying trends and issues.

## DESCRIPTION

**CHOICES** portrays a night of partying that goes wrong for the characters – at the extreme end of the scale of what may happen during a night of partying in a 25-minute high energy performance.

The performance is followed by **Forum Theatre** to re-work selected scenes.

Forum Theatre is a technique created by Brazilian theatre practitioner Augusto Boal, to enable an audience to explore and analyse the reality in which they are living.

- 1. The script is first played as written; the actors playing out their characters' destructive and/or uninformed choices with disastrous consequences.
- 2. The script is then replayed, but now audience members are invited by the coordinator to intervene and suggest other behavioural choices to the actors which will have more positive outcomes. (Members of the audience can also be invited to come up on stage and perform the new behaviours themselves.)

## **EVALUATION**

Link to the Evaluation Report here:

http://www.healthaction.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/CHOICES-Final-Evaluation-2011.pdf or you can find it on this page: http://www.healthaction.org.nz/cayad/

	CHOICES SAFER PAF	RTYING THEATRE-IN	-EDUCATION INITIATIVE	
Programme Logic Model				
	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	
Pre-Activities	Activities / Processes	Short-term Outcomes	Mid-term Outcomes	Overarching Outcome
		Young people have raised awareness abo "the harms of alcohol and unsafe partying behaviours	· ·	
	Forum Theatre workshops with youth audiences	Young people have raised awareness of the choices they can make while partying	/	
Tour Planning	Delivery of CHOICES	Parents are enabled t		
	performances	form networks with other parents.	with other parents about youth partying issues & behaviours	Most young people in our local region are supported to party
	Parent Sessions following performances.	Parents are better informed of youth partying issues	Parents are better able (empowered) to support safer partying	safely
	(Services present, eg: Police, AOD Service etc.)		by young people	
		Parents have better knowledge of what lo services are available		
Develop follow-up Curricular Support Materials for follow up work	Provide curricular support materials and training to selected youth organisations for 2011 piloting			<b>1</b>
	Teachers deliver lesson-plans post- CHOICES at selected pilot sites	Messages from CHOIC are reinforced	Lesson Plans and	Health Curriculum
Literature Review of effectiveness of Forum Theatre to create behaviour change	Develop How-To CHOICES Safer Partying pack for other communities to use.	How-To pack content completed	Choices How-To pack	delivery is enhanced by availability of other tools
	Evaluation of CHOICES 2011	Schools, communities and other key agencie endorse CHOICEs as a effective learning too	completed completed	CHOICES is used nationwide as a safer partying tool