

THE TRUE NEWS

Climate Change: denial or ignorance?

By Abbey Perkin

Climate change - the great affliction facing the planet today. There is only one threat greater than climate change: the people who deny it. The question is - why are there still skeptics of climate change after so much evidence? The issue may not be failing to recognize that climate change is happening, but society being too scared to accept the issue and confront it. To solve the issue, we first need to prove that climate change is real.

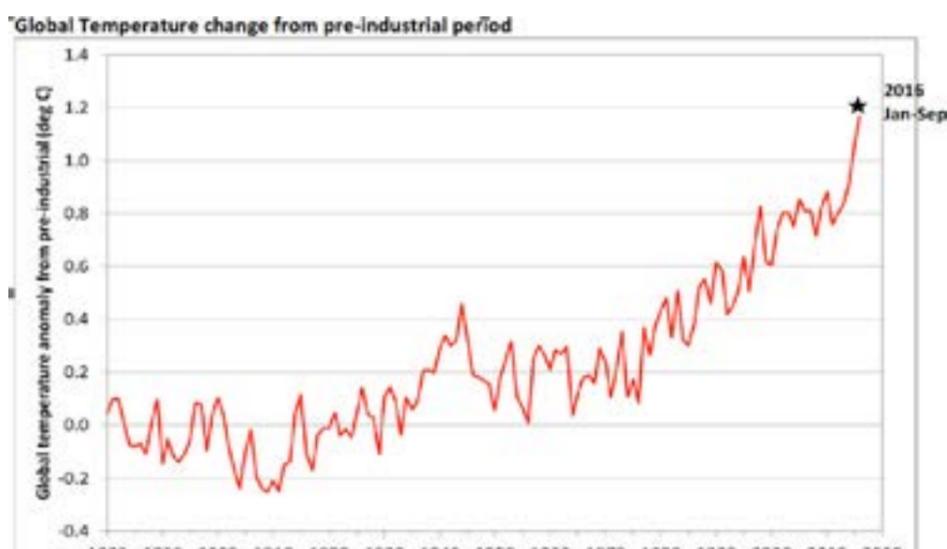
To prove that climate change is real, we need to look at the consequences it is causing the environment.



Data from NASA's Earth Science Communications Team can tell us that since 1880, the global average temperature has had a slow, steady rise until around 1976, when the temperature started to rise at a more rapid rate. Since around 2010, there has been a disturbingly sharp increase. Recorded from that date are the five hottest years on record, 2016 being the most extreme on record; each month in that year broke its record for the respective month (excluding June). It is not only the temperature increasing, but also the Carbon Dioxide levels along with it, a gas that naturally occurs in the air. The element works in the atmosphere to trap heat close to earth, which is why too much of it is lethal to our planet. The Earth System Research Laboratory claims "Today's rate of increase [of Carbon Dioxide] is more than 100 times faster than the increase that occurred when the last ice age ended." Two centuries of burning fossil fuels for electricity, transport, appliances, etc, is finally catching up to our planet. The evidence stands clear in front of us

and impossible to ignore. "Scientific evidence for warming of the climate system is unequivocal." States the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Yet, studies done in America, the United Kingdom and Australia discovered that 5 – 8% of people still deny climate change. After the indisputable evidence, it is preposterous for anyone to deny global warming. The problem facing the planet cannot be society refusing to believe that the climate is rapidly changing, but society refusing to accept the issue and take action on solving it. A common excuse that people use for not contributing to solving global warming is that they are too insignificant in the bigger picture of society, and nothing they say or do will be significant enough to alter the climate and solve the issue of climate change. A common excuse that people use for not contributing to solving global warming is that they are too insignificant in the bigger picture of society, and nothing they say or do will be significant enough to alter the climate and solve the issue of climate change.

It is obviously true that one person cannot solve the worldwide issue, but if we all contribute in our own small way, we can make a difference, but only if all of us are devoted to it. Of course, there is a limit to what humanity can do to stop global warming as the damage has already been made, and we cannot erase the years that we've spent ruining the earth by burning fossil fuels, destroying forests and much more. Humanity is not capable of altering the path that we have sent the planet on, and to think we can ultimately stop global warming is foolish. We can, however, improve and postpone it. Making changes in our daily lifestyle such as taking public transport instead of a personal vehicle, turning off lights and appliances when they aren't in use, buying local products to reduce energy use in transport, recycling rubbish and installing energy efficient appliances in your home. We need to remember, we can all make a small difference. The issue of climate change is unambiguous and we can no longer avoid it.



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SWIPERS GULLY TRAINING RESTAURANT

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Source: World Metrological Organization

Successful Safety Circles Save Our Society

By Alex Peng

The biggest deficit that we have in our society and in the world right now is an empathy deficit. We are in great need of people being able to stand in somebody else's shoes and see the world through their eyes. - Barack Obama

It was on Sunday 9 August 1987; the weather was cold enough to make people feel lazy in the winter morning, people seemed a bit dizzy after watching Hawthorn beat Fitzroy by 60 points. It had been a big night for teams' fans. The constant sounds of the base sound of the train and the whizz of the cars zooming by people who live near Clifton Station, and Julian Knight, a 19 year old boy was one of them. During the day, everything was normal; people had some hot dogs for lunch, and deciding if they are going out for tea that night. By 9:30pm, a gunshot shattered the hum of the traffic. As the result of the massacre, 7 people died and 19 people were non-fatally injured, the murderer, Julian Knight, was eventually arrested after 44 minutes of shooting. However, the question here is, why would he do that? Why would a 19 year old teenager become a murder?

If we go back 50,000 thousands years to the Paleolithic era to the early days of Homosapiens, what we find is the environment full of danger. The danger could be a tiger or bad weather that is trying to kill us. So, as we evolved into social animals, we learned to get into an environment where we work together in a group which is called a 'safety circle' according to renowned motivational speaker, Simon Sinek (March 2014). In his motivation speech titled 'Why good leaders make you feel safe', Sinek reports that if we want to keep thriving in this world, the environment inside the safety circle is really important since the natural reaction inside the circle is to trust and cooperate with each other. If it were not for this trust and cooperation, cultures would become extinct. In the past, 50,000 years ago, upsets within the group would be controlled by the chief and the issue would be resolved for the sake of, not only the individual, but also the entire group. It is the exact same thing in today's society: the circle now could be your family, your company or your school. Leaders are in the position of control, and leaders should be responsible for the environment inside the group. But the reality is, there are few leaders who are truly responsible for their community. Many psychologists have noted that if it is a corrupt environment, a good person will do bad things, if it is a positive environment, a bad person will learn to be good. So, once a problem occurs, it is not because of the people, but rather they become a product of their environment.

Therefore, it is necessary to know the environment where Knight grew up. According to Wikipedia, Julian Knight was the eldest of three children; a military family adopted him when he was 10 days old. He was surrounded by a good environment, his adoptive father was an education officer who taught literacy, numeracy and Chinese to soldiers. Knight had a chance to go abroad in Malaysia, Hong Kong and Singapore. As teenagers it is often family where we feel safe before we transition into an adulthood. The environment inside the family can change a person before they get into the high stress work. It determines the way we act, the way we think and our overall attitude. Sadly, Knight's parents divorced when he was 12, and relations went sour. Tension led to violence, possibly making him feel unsafe, insecure and guilty; a common reaction when families divorce. Moreover, it is difficult for teenagers to ask for help in front of their parents. Knight turned to alcohol, cigarettes and gambling as a form of escapism. Knight's problems continued to spiral out of control and when in the military he stabbed his superior. This served to only isolate him further.

Hoddle Street is just one example of many tragedies to have occurred over the last 10 to 20 years. Julian Knight is just a human being like everyone else. What his actions show is that bad leadership and corrupted environments inside the 'safety circle' can result in tragic consequences. Horrifically, this kind of incident is still happening in our world today. As the youth who will inherit this society, shouldn't we start now to do more to bring outsiders into our 'safety circles'?



Racism in politics

By Zachary Stowell

One nation, you hear that term often, but is also quite a more significant issue than you may realise. Racism in politics is a real issue that needs to be addressed. The main culprit in such an attack is the leader of the One Nation Party, Pauline Hanson. There has been many instances of her making controversially racist statements. The most prominent is her slander of the commonwealth games opening ceremony, she specifically targeted the indigenous part of the ceremony saying things like the focus on the indigenous culture was "disgusting" and that she considers herself "indigenous" because she was born in Australia and complains about being a second class citizen, she says "I've got nothing against the Aboriginals but I'm sick and tired of being made to feel as if I'm a second-class citizen in my own country."

Behavior like this should not be accepted in our nation and the fact that she has so much support behind her is atrocious. She believes that "our country is not based on aboriginals"

The vast majority of Australians believe that we as a nation should let more refugees in the country and Pauline Hanson has been a huge advocate of the "Operation Sovereign Orders" program that started when the Abbott government campaigned for it. The Operation involved stopping all "illegal" immigrants from coming to Australia on boats. Said immigrants have all been sent to places such as Manus Island and treated extremely poor. Politicians have no idea what these people go through just to get near the Australian shores. Many of the hardships that are expressed on TV are dumbed down for the audience and viewers and what actually happens is not known by many. There is a common discrimination against these people that do come over because of their war torn countries, people stereotype them as thieves and lower-class citizens when realistically they're just trying to create a new life for themselves and their families. Such discrimination and racism really needs to be cut down as it is a huge issue in media and everyday life right now.



Sport



OUCH! Sport-related injuries in teens

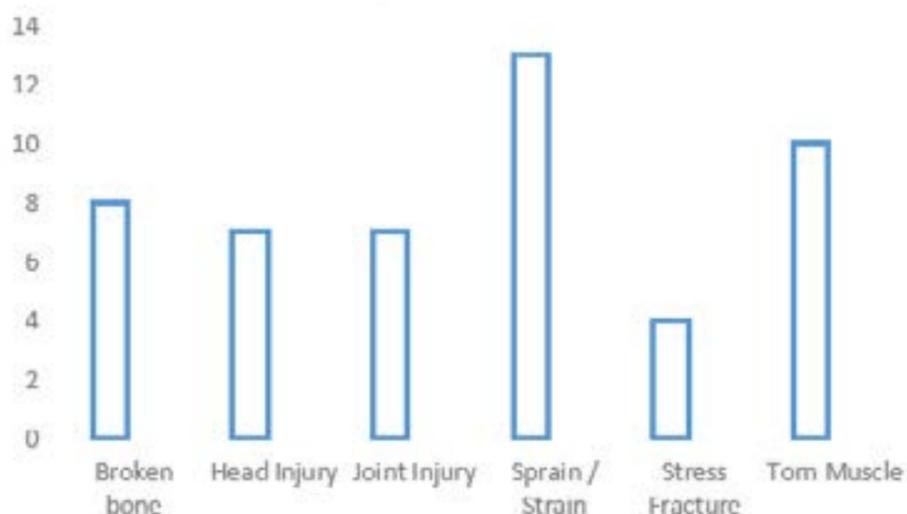
By Rigby Stow

It is sockingly, the number of people who suffer head injuries is the same as those suffering joint injuries and similar to those suffering broken bones. With the number of kids playing sport increasing, injuries are becoming more of a worry and are effecting young children's lives. The statistics on head injuries (right) are particularly concerning in young people because they may go on to a career in sport and suffer from more head injuries which could lead to serious long-term health issues. Recently, there has been many head injuries. One example of this is when AFL player,

Andrew Gaff from the West Coast Eagles, left Andrew Brayshaw from Fremantle, with a scar for life, following a punch to the head. The long-term effects are currently unknown. However, the history of head injuries in sport does not look good. Aside from head injuries being on the increase, the graph also shows that most of the injuries suffered by young footballers are from sprains and strains. This is a minor injury compared to something like a broken bone or a head injury. Normally this injury would not require any hospital treatment and recovery time is normally only 1-3 weeks. When comparing basketball and AFL, the data demonstrates that overall AFL is not as dangerous a sport as is said to be. The graphs show that young teenagers suffer more injuries while participating in Basketball rather AFL.

According to "A neurosurgeon's Guide to Sports-related Head Injury", the 21,878 children under 14 suffered head injuries from Football, whereas only 14,952 suffered head injuries from basketball, these statistics support our survey results. Suffering from multiple injuries as a child is a big health issue. Platten, an AFL player, was concussed 36 times in his career and is now suffering from early stages Alzheimers disease. In the early days of the AFL season, in 2017, Paddy McCartin's games were cut short in round 12 after he suffered from his sixth concussion since 2014. Behind the scenes, the AFL has been studying the effects from head injuries caused by playing AFL.

Injuries from AFL

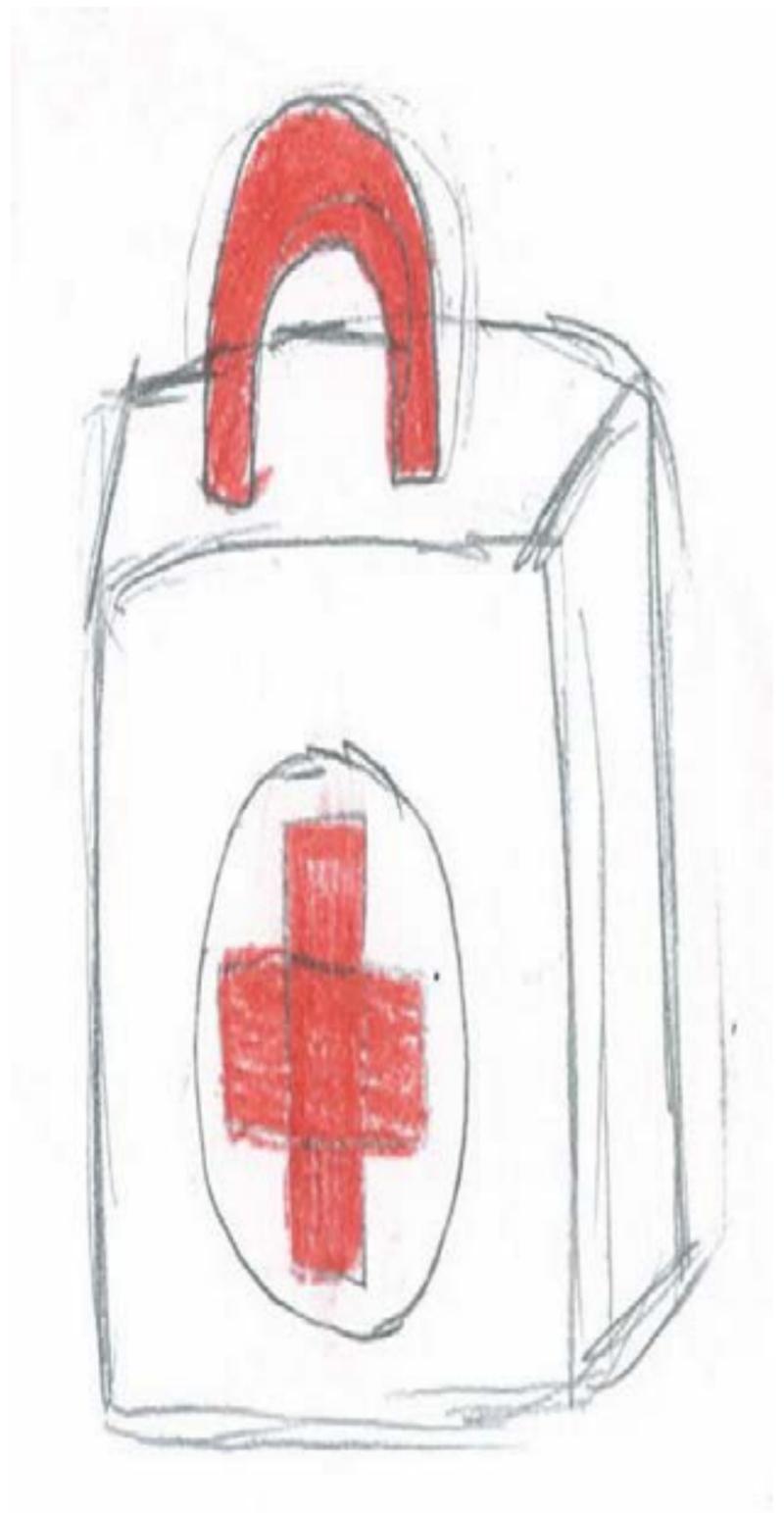
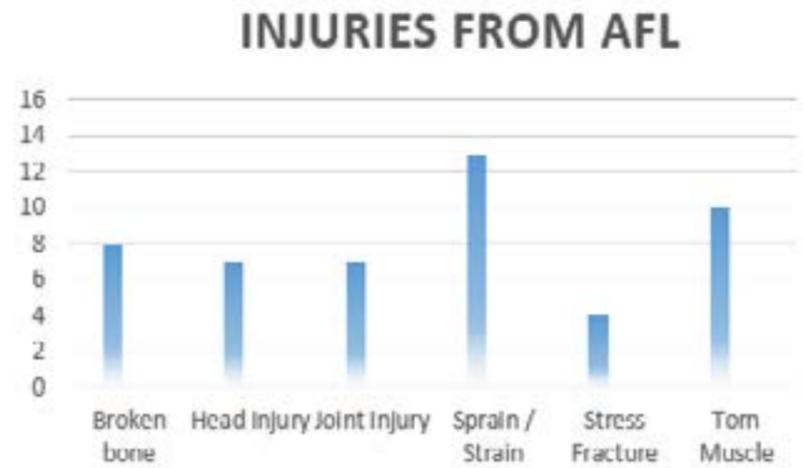
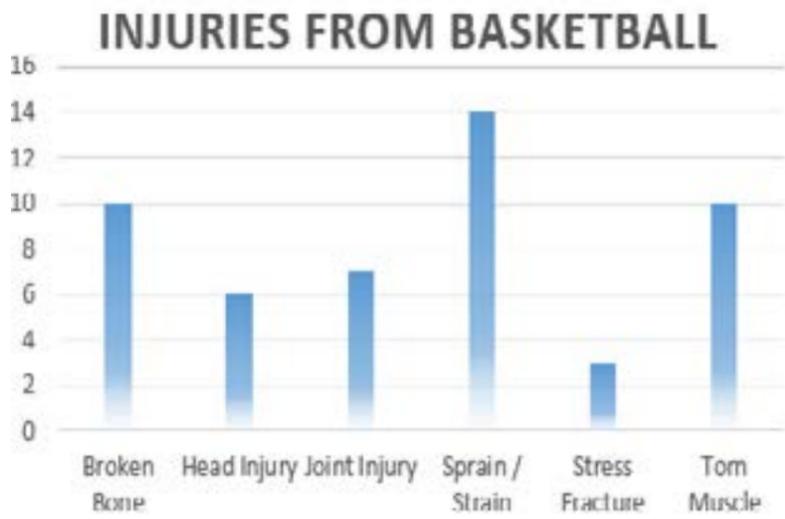


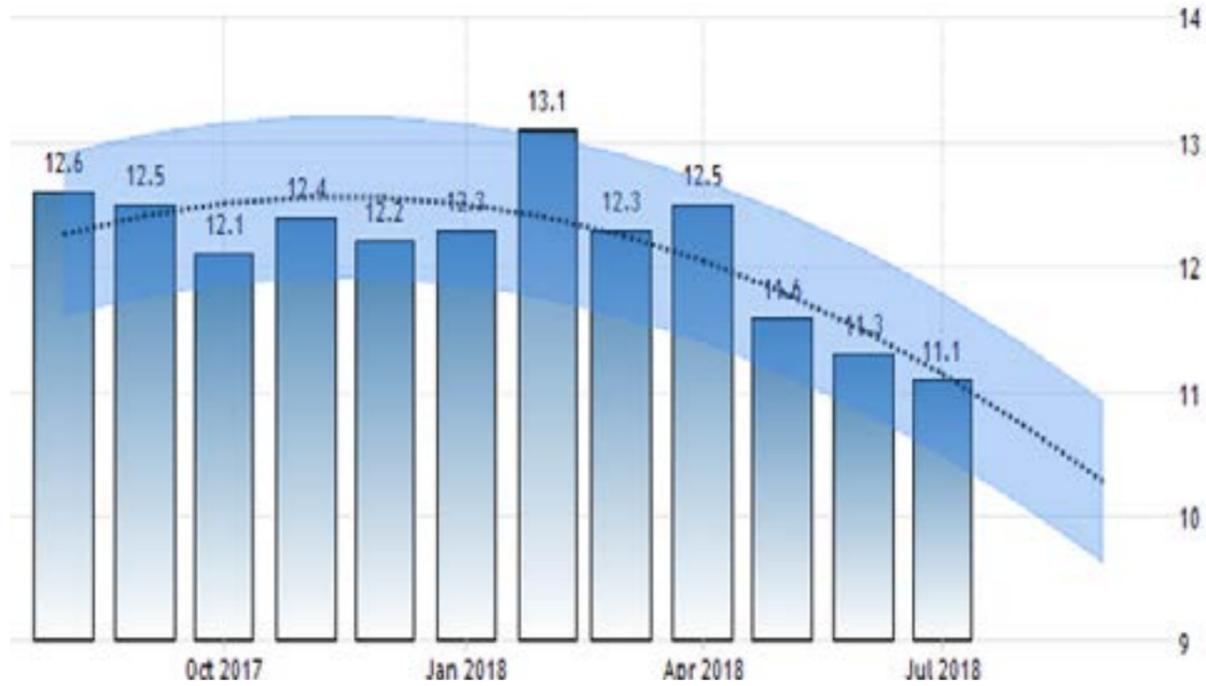
Twilight Market in the Vines

Friday 23 November
4.00pm to 8.30pm

Swipers Gully Training Restaurant
25 Eltham-Yarra Glen Road, Kangaroo Ground

Knowing the rising statistics coupled with the unknown consequences of head injuries in later life, perhaps parents and sporting organisation need to enforce protective gear to keep our youngster safe.





Discrimination against teenagers

By Zachary Stowell

As I was walking out of Coles in the Melbourne CBD I was rudely stopped for my bag to be checked by the security guard at the time. Now this may seem like a normal occurrence, if for not the fact that I was only stopped because of my age and that, it simply unacceptable. Teenage discrimination in our day and age should not still exist, as that particular event occurred several people easily over the age of 25 walked past security without as much as a glance from the guard. This very clearly shows that teenagers are discriminated against and quite frankly, I find it outrageous.

There are many examples of this, I went around and interviewed my peers who are also teenagers. A direct quote from Ibraheem Kassaby "they always check us, but not the grannies walking." And things like "I believe they check us because of age, it's a reoccurring event and It's just kinda annoying at this point." The teenagers in question clearly are not very happy about it and have good reason to be. In this case adults need to feel empathy for said teenagers as they can see that the guards, myki ticketers etc are letting the adults past while they stop the teenagers. My fellow peers and I can tell you from firsthand experience that it is not a

good feeling to be singled out in such a way. To put it in perspective for an adult, it's the same as being pulled over for a random breath test, generally, you know you've done nothing wrong and is an inconvenience in your day and after a few times, becomes really painful and irritating.

Even with all that, this isn't the only example of age playing a major role in discrimination. In the majority of work placement, teenagers are being criminally underpaid. This in due part is the fault of the teenagers as well, for not knowing their rights and correct salary for work at their particular age. Recently we (being my classmates and myself) had a man from the commonwealth bank come in and talk to us about our legal rights and payment when in a work place. He explained to us the reason most of us are underpaid when working a job that is on the books is the simple fact of us being lied to and not standing up for ourselves in this case. This shows that the managers of the companies love employing teens to take advantage of them, this is shown by the graph displaying that the youth unemployment rate of Australia has been dropping recently. The managers of massive food chains where teens get jobs such as McDonalds, KFC, Hungry Jacks etc know that the teens are more than likely not to know their rights or correct salary. This education was valuable as we all learnt about our rights and minimum wage and will in future know what's going on.



AFL TEAMS

B	B	N	R	J	V	B	G	S	L	A	L	U	B	S	BLUES
Q	Q	U	J	E	O	J	N	E	A	A	I	V	H	I	CATS
C	U	U	L	M	W	O	T	L	I	I	O	Z	X	O	DOCKERS
Q	Z	D	B	L	M	O	I	G	F	B	N	C	I	S	HAWKS
Y	T	E	I	E	D	S	P	A	W	V	S	T	H	W	MAGPIES
Y	R	P	D	W	W	O	R	E	S	Z	C	A	S	O	SUNS
S	R	W	F	M	G	D	G	E	Z	U	W	N	S	R	BOMBERS
K	A	N	G	A	R	O	O	S	G	K	N	E	M	C	CROWS
Z	X	N	L	G	J	A	O	K	S	I	U	S	R	Z	EAGLES
G	T	P	M	P	S	N	A	W	S	L	T	E	B	O	KANGAROOS
E	W	E	C	I	A	W	O	Z	B	W	L	X	Y	A	POWER
A	F	H	M	E	G	I	A	N	T	S	H	R	J	B	SWANS
J	G	J	Y	S	G	H	S	R	E	K	C	O	D	M	BULLDOGS
L	O	G	D	A	K	C	Q	P	R	N	Z	A	K	P	DEMONS
X	T	Q	C	A	T	S	U	I	D	C	W	S	I	T	GIANTS

MOBILE APPS

E E R T M U G M U S I C A L U T I D D E R I S
 T U M B L R D T A H C P A N S F A C E B O O K
 S O U N D C L O U D M E S S E N G E R U B E R
 T S E R E T N I P P A S T A H W Y F I T O P S
 V I N E U B E R E A T S N E T F L I X U K I K
 I N S T A G R A M R E T T I W T E L G O O G R
 O O H A Y T R A P E S U O H S K Y P E Y A B E

Lootboxes Must be Banned

By Kristen Timewell

When an online game can lead to gambling problems for teenagers as young as 13, then that type of game should be banned. Loot boxes in games should be banned as they can cause gambling addictions. The boxes are designed to be attractive to teenagers and others who are not really aware of the dangers of on-line gambling.

Loot boxes are computer lucky dips and can be accessed by kids with any gaming device. Phones, PC's, Nintendo Switch, consoles are all used to access loot boxes and micro-transactions. There has been a number of cases of kids, teens and adults spend hundreds, thousand and in extreme cases hundreds of thousands on loot boxes and in game purchases.

There are many examples of people spending thousands, and in some cases hundreds of thousands of dollars on in-app purchases. One example is nineteen year old Reddit user named Kensgold EA (his username) stated 'I am 19 and addicted to gambling.' Kensgold continued by announcing that over the past several years he had spent \$23,167.60 Australian dollars on microtransactions in Star Wars Battlefront 2. Kensgold also declared that over the prior three years he spent a colossal \$18396.52 AUD dollars on Counter-Strike: Global Offensive, Smite and The Hobbit: Kingdoms of Middle-earth. Kensgold reported that he was lured into spending money on games when he was only 13 years old when he spent \$40.88 AUD

Many European countries such as Belgium are banning loot boxes as they cause gambling addictions at a young age. It is about time Australia followed this motion.

How did all this drama about banning loot boxes and in games purchases start? This drama started when a Reddit user by the name u/MBMM posted a complaint about how he had to pay \$80 or play 40 hours to unlock Darth Vader on Starwars battle front 2. EA replied 'The intent is to provide players with a sense of pride and accomplishment for unlocking different heroes.' they go on to say, "we make constant adjustments to ensure that players have challenges that are compelling, rewarding, and of course attainable via gameplay." EA (electronic arts)notes that they appreciate feedback and indicate that they will make changes where they need to. Weather EA make enough changes to keep their consumers happy we will have to wait and see.

This basically means EA is trying to make people believe that they want to make their games interesting and keep people happy and this is their reason for collecting data. But everyone knew that EA were just doing it for the money. Another reddit user called EA out on this by saying:

"That's rich. Just be honest. The truth is you're hoping that somebody is desperate enough to buy credits to unlock the character. It has nothing to do with providing a "sense of pride and accomplishment." How naive do you think your player base is?"

Another case study reports that Faisal Shugga, who is just 7 years old, spent \$8,176.08 in just 5 days from December 13-18. Faisal spent the money on Jurassic World for new parks and dinosaurs. These are just two case studies out of many poor souls who have been victims of extortion from in-game purchases.

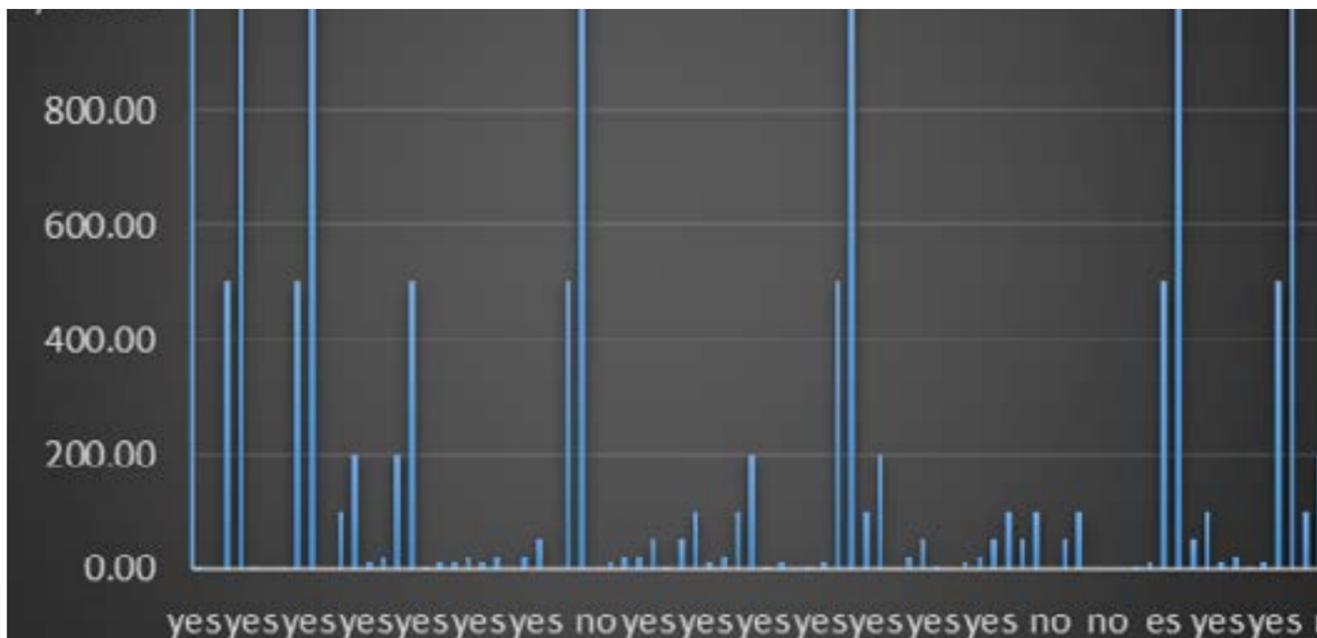
A group of 55 year nine students were surveyed about spending money on in-app purchases. They were asked 5 questions.

- How often do you play video games?
- What do you play games on?
- What games do you play?
- Have you spent money on Lootboxes or in-app purchases?
- Estimate how much money you have spent on Lootboxes or in-app purchases in the past year.



Of the 55 students, only 14 said they haven't spent any money on Lootboxes or in-app purchases. Only 18 students have spent less than 5 dollars on Lootboxes and in-app purchases, 8 students spent 10-20 dollars, 3 students 20-50 dollars, 6 students 50-100 dollars, 4 students 100- 200 dollars, only one student spent 200-500 dollars and 6 students 500-1000. This is becoming a serious problem for families. Do we really need to have our kids gambling in Year 9, and even earlier?

This is why Lootboxes and in-app purchases should be banned in all countries to stop future gambling issues. There are plenty of great games out there that kids can play that do not rely on additional purchases and gambling. Or, even better they could always go outside to play!



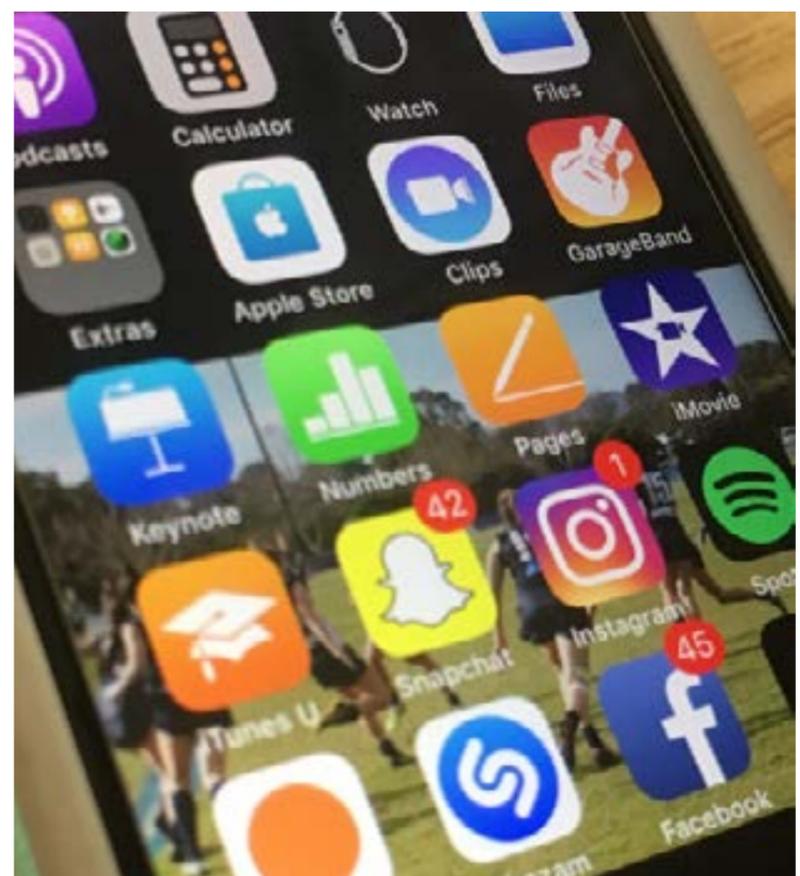
Social media the latest drug?

By Sarah Moxon

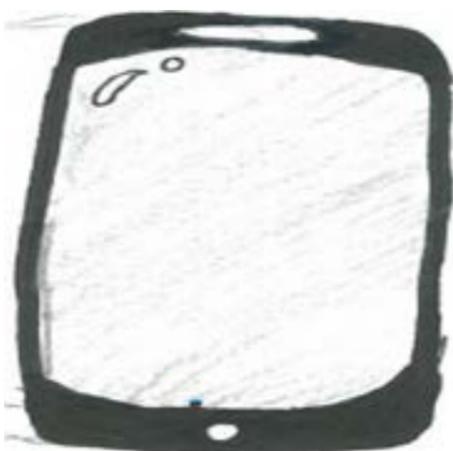
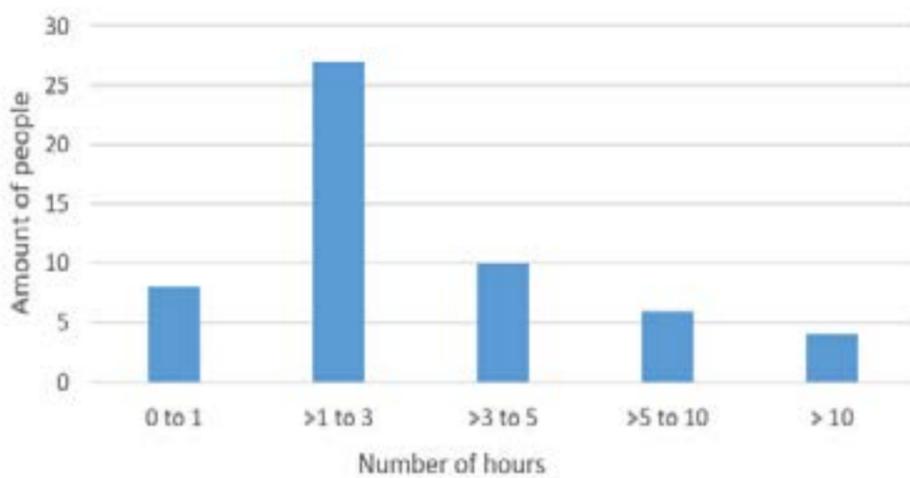
The word “addiction” brings to mind alcohol and drugs. Yet, over the past 25 years, a new type of addiction has emerged – addiction to social media. It may not cause physical harm, such as those caused by tobacco or alcohol, but it has the potential to cause long-term damage to our emotions, behaviour and mental health. Similar to substance dependency, every ‘like’ you get, say on Instagram or Facebook, sends a shot of that feel-good chemical “Dopamine” to your brain, so what do we do to feel good? We check likes ‘just one more time’, we post ‘just one more time’, if we don’t have access to social media we become anxious - doesn’t that sound like every drug you have ever heard of? Social media is setting unrealistic expectations for the young people and as a result, is having a negative effect on teen’s self-worth. Adolescent girls are being coaxed into an unrealistic world of body-image, causing them eating disorders, depression, anxiety, insomnia and many more. Girls are not the only ones affected, as young men are also being fed stereotypical

gender ideals, causing them to believe they’ll only be masculine with height, muscles and a tough demeanour. Social media’s biggest threat is its likeness to a bathroom wall, letting teens sling insults with the recklessness that comes only with anonymity. And is it really a coincidence that 16-24 year olds are the main users of social media and that the same demographic of 16-24 year olds are the people most prone to develop a mental health issues, such as depression and anxiety.

Social media has been proven to be associated with high levels of anxiety, depression, bullying and FOMO (fear of missing out), sleep quality, bullying and body image. 36 out of 55 students agreed that having a phone causes them to lose sleep at night. 27 out of the 55 students that were surveyed admitted to being on their phone between one and three hours daily, while a fifth of the student surveyed said that they spend anywhere from five to ten hours plus on their phones daily. These statistics only add to the already overwhelming evidence that social media is only negatively affecting teens lives. Alcohol isn’t bad, too much alcohol is bad, gambling isn’t bad, too much gambling is dangerous, social media isn’t bad too much social media is addictive.



Amount of time I spend on my phone on an average week day





Youth Homelessness Needs Its Own Govern- ment Agency

By Zoe Bailey

The question is: How do we help? There is no easy answer. While the issue of youth homelessness is thrown around a fair bit, we never stop to think of how it affects us. While to be fair many people are of the opinion that the homeless are selfish and just have thrown their life's away, but what these people don't realize is how much it actually affects them and their community within. From minors to seniors the effect of homelessness on the community is major. At the moment there are over 36,000 young Australians living rough and every

single one of them has their own story to tell. While there are many different organizations around to help people in these situations, unfortunately by themselves they can't fix the whole problem. But there needs to be a change because homelessness especially affects the younger people of our community. It commonly hits them when they see people their age, or younger, living on the streets and they are not able to even afford a roll of toilet paper, something we all take for granted. Everybody should feel safe and secure in their own home, but unfortunately in most cases that erupt and create youth homelessness. This starts with family violence, betrayal, abandonment and family issues or an unstable household. These are just some of the reasons our youth end up on the streets and we need to put an end to it. The question is how? How do we stop this happening? How can we start the ripple effect that changes the world? The fact is we will never know unless we take that next

step, open the door and take the first step forward to new opportunities, opportunities to change the world. Now we need to take a stand and prepare our younger generations to make better decisions and create a better foundation to help the homelessness, to take the unfortunate youth off our streets. So this is why our government needs to take a stand and create its own youth homelessness agency, to allow for funds and human resources for our youth.