

Choosing for life interactive resource

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Client: The D.A.R.E. Foundation of New

Zealand, Graham T Gibbs (Chief Executive Officer)

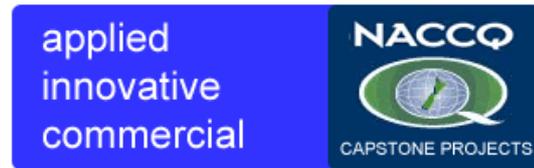
Otago Polytechnic

This project, "Choosing for Life" is to develop a database driven website for D.A.R.E New Zealand, which is aimed at teaching children 9 - 13 years old about the use and abuse of harmful substances available for them today. This website will be linked to but separate from the main the D.A.R.E website.

D.A.R.E. New Zealand is considered to be a leader in creating and delivering quality education programmes that reduce violence and the misuse of drugs. They do this by helping people learn how to make responsible decisions therefore supporting safe and healthy communities. "Choosing for Life" website will provide children (9-13 years) and parents an interactive, research based resource centre. Factual information about all common forms of drugs can be accessed from a library of knowledge, which will contain simple facts and general information about each substance, including graphics. The short term and long term effects likely to be suffered when using various drugs can be discovered when exploring "Human body Museum" section of the website. A quiz at the end of each drug section will help the children make a decision for themselves. This will be in the form of a simple game, giving the children options on what path they want to follow.

This website will be the framework for information provided by the National Poisons Centre and reworked into a readable form for children by students from the Dunedin College of Education.

The impact of this project on other organisations has the potential to be very high. Since this project is going online the people that it can affect is not limited to just children. Parents to teachers, drug users, and Otago Polytechnic, just to name a few, can all be affected in some way. Because of this high potential impact, Crazy Developers have in place a risk action plan to counteract any possible



misleading information that will be posted onto this website.

The first prototype is due 1st July for our client on a CD-rom. This will only cover one drug, tobacco. This will then be shown to a national conference on 12th July and then students from Dunedin College of Education will take a CD-rom into schools. From this we will be given feedback as to what needs to be changed for us to roll out the second prototype.

The system is being developed as dynamic website, backed by XML. There is significant use of CSS and layers with interactivity with Macromedia Flash. Particular design issues revolve around the need for a structure to support information presented in child friendly but verifiable form. Other issues such as security, privacy and safety are also being discussed with the client.

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