



Shooting the Messenger? Young people and the news media

Jehan Casinader



This workshop will explore recent criticism of how young people are portrayed by the news media in New Zealand, and how those perceptions have been shaped. Is it fair that South Auckland teenagers are given a bad rap by the press? Why are many social networking websites portrayed as the sources of all evil? This session will look at how youth-related stories are covered on television, in print, on radio and online. Why do some stories seem sensationalist? Why isn't there more 'good news' about the youth sector? As the election draws nearer, this workshop will also explore the relationship between young people, the news media and politics, in the context of central and local government. Do the media *allow* young people to have a voice, or do the media *prevent* young people from having a voice? The workshop will pick up on many interesting questions raised at the Involve Conference in Wellington earlier this year. Discussion and interaction will be encouraged. Come prepared to speak your mind.

Jehan Casinader

Superhero: Captain Planet (his environmental quest is most admirable).

Jehan is a freelance journalist and commentator. He cut his teeth in student media and is now the youth affairs reporter for TVNZ's Breakfast show. He writes for newspapers and magazines here and overseas. Jehan tries to cover youth-related stories that have slipped under mainstream news radar, as well as arts, entertainment and travel. Recent assignments have taken him to the Solomon Islands, Singapore and New York. Jehan has been involved with the youth sector for many years, and is also part of the judging academy for the New Zealand Music Awards.