NEW JERSEY LOTTERY RENEWS ITS COMMITMENT TO THE PREVENTION OF UNDERAGE GAMBLING

Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey Inc. Joins With the Lottery to Heighten Awareness About the Age Restriction on Lottery Play

Trenton, N.J. (Aug. 7, 2014) – Leaders of the New Jersey Lottery and the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey met today at Quick Trip Express, 5 Lawrenceville-Pennington Road, a Lottery retailer in Lawrence Township, N.J., to kick off the annual “Not 18 Yet? No Bet” Awareness Campaign. This campaign reminds residents and retailers that New Jersey law prohibits the sale of lottery tickets by or to anyone under the age of 18. Carole Hedinger, Executive Director, New Jersey Lottery and Donald Weinbaum, Executive Director, Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey Inc., renewed their commitments to responsible play and the prevention of underage gambling. The “Not 18 Yet? No Bet” campaign is held each year to coincide with the American Gaming Association’s Responsible Gaming Education Week, scheduled this year on Aug. 4-8, 2014.

“The New Jersey Lottery has a longstanding commitment to promoting responsible play and discouraging underage gambling of any kind,” said Carole Hedinger. “We have an active partnership with the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey and support their efforts to prevent underage gambling.”

As part of its effort, the New Jersey Lottery has developed a “Not 18 Yet? No Bet” brochure aimed at retailers and players that provide information about the major types of teen betting, as well as ways to recognize early signs of a gambling problem. The brochure also provides guidance on how to obtain advice and help. It is available at each of the more than 6,900 Lottery retailer locations, at all Lottery-sponsored exhibits and events and through the NJLottery.com website.

Today, the Lottery provided the Council on Compulsive Gambling with additional “Not 18 Yet? No Bet” brochures, as well as supplies of pencils for distribution to students who attend the Council’s school lecture series. The pencils are imprinted with the message “LOTTERY IS NOT CHILD’S PLAY, You Must Be 18 or Older to Play the NJ Lottery.”

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In addition, the “Not 18 Yet? No Bet” message and the 1-800-GAMBLER® Helpline number are continually flashed on Lottery’s digital messaging screens at all retailer locations.

“Right now, the Council on Compulsive Gambling of NJ is in the midst of a major expansion of its community and school-based outreach programs,” said Donald Weinbaum. “Part of our focus this year will be on preventing the onset of gambling addiction among adolescents and young adults, so the New Jersey Lottery’s message and support is particularly timely. The Lottery continues to be a great partner in promoting the importance of responsible gambling and in publicizing the 1-800-GAMBLER® number. If a parent thinks their child might have a gambling problem, they can call that number for advice and help.”

The Lottery has had a representative on the Council of Compulsive Gambling’s board of directors since June 1999. The Council’s problem gambling helpline number (1-800-GAMBLER®) is printed on every Lottery ticket, brochure and sign, and appears as a tag line on the Lottery’s radio and television advertisements. Finally, the Lottery’s website directs visitors to the Council’s site (www.800gambler.org), which provides the public with free information and help for compulsive gambling problems.

About the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey Inc.
Since 1983, the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey Inc. has helped problem and compulsive gamblers and their families. The group was a pioneer in the compulsive gambling field and remains one of the leaders in providing professional and compassionate services to a wide range of audiences. The Council’s mission is to provide prevention, education and referral services to anyone affected by this illness. It operates the most widely recognized gambling help number in the nation, the 1-800-GAMBLER® Helpline. The help number is now available in 20 states and offers 24-hour, immediate, confidential assistance to anyone affected by gambling problems.

About the New Jersey Lottery
Since its inception in 1970, the New Jersey State Lottery has contributed more than $22 billion to the State in support of education and institutions. In Fiscal Year 2013, the Lottery’s contribution was more than $1 billion. Among its beneficiaries are: veterans homes, community and other colleges and universities, school nutrition programs, homes for individuals with developmental disabilities, psychiatric hospitals, higher education scholarship programs and the Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf.

MEDIA: Photos available. Contact Judy Drucker for availability.

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