



Students threatened with bashing over bets

SOME Mackay high school students have been threatened with severe bashings after they were unable to cover illegal schoolyard bets, a student confirmed yesterday.

The student, who did not wish to be named, said pupils at some Mackay high schools could place bets worth hundreds of dollars with others acting as illegal bookmakers.

Gambling was gang controlled and those not able to cover bets were threatened with severe beatings.

School principals contacted yesterday said they had no knowledge of any such activity in their school.

They said if solid evidence was forthcoming, immediate action

would be taken.

Mackay police school-based officer Leisa Aitken said police would start investigations.

The student said teachers did not know much about the activity with beatings carried outside of school grounds.

Gambling expert Dr Grant Schofield said adolescent males were the group most likely to gambling.

"Certainly a significant portion of the population around adolescence, heading into their college years, have difficulties," Dr Schofield said.

"They are gaining financial independence and do not have much idea how to control their finances."

