



NATIONAL

Revellers' safety a winner for boys

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IN SAFE HANDS: Louis Creed, left, Alexander Chirelli and Ryan Guy, along with four others, have won an enterprise competition for a company they set up offering security for teenage parties.

Headline-grabbing drinking exploits have inspired a group of Christchurch schoolboys to set up a security firm for teenage parties.

Seven Year 13 Christchurch Boys' High pupils set up My Security – one of two winners at the Lion Foundation Young Enterprise Scheme's Canterbury oral business-plan competition on Wednesday.

Company managing director Ryan Guy said the team wanted to help create moderated party environments for teens.

It would aim to prevent events such as last month's death of an Auckland teenager who drank a bottle of vodka and Christchurch's May 2007 Edgware Rd tragedy in which two schoolgirls were killed.

"Parents don't trust their teens to have parties any more because of problems that can happen, like gatecrashers, binge drinking and fighting. We're trying to help combat this."

Through links with police and corrections officers, the service allows teenagers and parents to hire affordable security staff for parties.

The firm's packages range from having a bouncer on standby for a few hours, to having staff on site for five or six hours. Prices range up to \$400.

My Security launched at a birthday party in Merivale attended by about 60 guests at which a bouncer checked IDs at the gate against a list of invited guests and kept watch on proceedings, Guy said.

Starting a company was "proving a challenge", albeit a worthwhile one, the 17-year-old said.

The business-plan competition saw 34 teams from 11 schools detailing their plans to three judges, all experienced and successful business people.

Stick It, a Rangiora High School team, with customised, protective iPod stickers, shared the honours with My Security.