



7/9/09 QLD

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Dear Sir,
I respond to your requests as in the Courier Mail, to enter the debate into the Chronic drink and drink related violence present in this state and throughout Australia.

Before expressing my views which will be plain and to the point, I will in a nutshell answer the 5 categories you quote as follows.

Like all serious problems facing this country, the rot in society began with the 1960's onwards.

Sudden freedom to one and all to buck the system destroying family and all values and previous respect for all authority.

Teenagers allowed to question and defy their parents and anyone their senior. Schools who gave up reading, writing and arithmetic for politics and the information to be able to challenge all laws, and order issues and worse how to become barrack room lawyers to evade any punishment.

All forms of punishment once effective to be outlawed right down to the rights of parents to control their unruly siblings.

National service the once man making pursuit which taught discipline, cleanliness decency and pride thrown away to cause today's Immediati Challenging of everything, whilst life and the lives of others has become totally unimportant to the point killing

EVIDENCE

is a normal pastime.

Now add the other ingredients for total mayhem Police who pursue speeders above all to the end whilst crime goes non-attended and not solved

To the situation where decent Joe public tries to stop crime or defend his property to be hit with half the police force, with definite imprisonment and penalty for doing the right thing whilst the cowardly smirking they or thugs will free to commit more mayhem even death.

Teenagers who have no action taken against the most gruesome attacks etc, - receiving useless cautions, pardons suspended sentences etc, etc.

Youth know they can avoid prosecution at any time and even expect compensation from anyone with the guts to challenge or stop their antics.

Cowts which free villains at will or hand down petty un-meaning cautions and petty work orders or fines never paid.

The do-gooders by the banner lead who make an ass of law and order forgiving every brutal attack etc. then the know nothing Psychologists etc, who couldn't fight their way out of a paper bag finally destroying any chance of justice with their pie in the sky rubbish.

The above is just for openness Both Australia and Britain have similar problems all now completely out of hand with drink being one of the major components.

As a now long retired British Police officer of both City and Rural British Police forces from the sixties to the nineties, I have watched the rapid decline in public values etc, and have witnessed every form of drunkenness, violence etc possible.

The common denominator in the majority of violent acts fuelled by too much drink and drugs. Some by the paranoid Schitzo's produced by low life families and abuse and drink.

Australia once had the most draconian drink laws which were suddenly relaxed overnight to commence the downhill spiral to today's drunken stupor seen as completely macho by Australia's population. Australians let themselves down so much with their pig headed attitudes and the belief that stupid behavior is clever and being in a drunken stupor is how it's normal. Nothing can be achieved without copious amounts of alcohol, how stupid and wrong they are.

Britain once had sensible drinking hours as follows 11am - 3pm 6pm - 11pm pubs, venues, clubs, dances, discos open till midnight only rarely to 1am with no drink served after 11.15pm. Plus a substantial meal had to be taken by all punters.

The idiot present destructive P.M. of Britain now totally against the wish of everyone agreed 24 hour drinking result violence has quadrupled and drunkenness reaching its highest ever recorded.

His brain never has to copy the sensible Europeans who have a set code to drink.

They always attend bars with the whole family all drink but food is eaten throughout the visit. Any form of drunkenness is abhorred by all. Anyone stupid enough to break the rule is ostracised by the community.

Teenagers also respect the rule in fear of their parents dislike and that of their own people.

Britons like Australians cannot regulate nor cope, with long drinking hours and only pour as much booze down their throats in as many minutes as possible to prove how clever and macho they are.

Under age drinking is at epidemic proportions thanks to stupidity, lack of crackdown on all drink outlets and stupid irresponsible parents who encourage drink at every turn.

In some defence of Australian children to go home at any time of the day to see father never without a beer can in hand, or similarly their mother never without a glass of wine etc. What conclusion are they to draw.

Questions Raised :-

1) Best practice to reduce alcohol related harm?

a) Return to sensible licensing hours say 11am to 3pm bym to 11pm and 10.30pm on Sundays these hours allow

more than enough time for anyone to have a decent drink.

B) Make the age for drinkers 21 yrs youngsters below this age have little or no control and just for the sheer hell of it mix drinks to get their buzz or so called thrill of being immune to anything.

As their brains cannot cope with the effects of alcohol, rage, annoyance of simple things or the feeling of being able to tackle anyone they dislike is brought to the fore.

Too many hallucinate no violence is never far away. As for listening to authority the so called mad steps in resulting in the confrontations we witness.

C) Too many bottle outlets, the rule should be one outlet per 6,000 population.

Woolworths and Coles have a lot to answer for.

D) Prices should be the same in the pub as at the bottle outlet and the size of multi packs should be reduced to eight cans or bottles per purchase ~~maximum~~, or less per day.

E) Anyone under 21 not allowed anymore than three bottles ^{per day} (if the 18 drinking age is kept)

F) No street drinking or in any public place or parks etc.

G) No opened containers in any vehicle

N.B. As here in Gutton hotel the 'P' plates carrying gangs of friends swilling from bottles or cans and then throwing the containers into the roads, gardens or onto the grass verges.

H) No drink at Ten parties and especially schoolies weeks as down the Gold Coast.

J) Parents ^{who} supply booze to teenagers Immediate \$5,000 fine or ^{where} quantities are large 12 months mandatory prison. All drink to be seized and destroyed

K) 'P' plates, teenagers etc allowing drink to be consumed in cars driving ban 3 yrs vehicle scrapped.

L) As we had powers in Britain for Police to clear streets after closing time reached, this prevents fights or any violence starting

M) Where venues are all full any groups wandering the streets to be encouraged to exit area, again reducing problems of confrontation.

N) The most Important of all ban all bottles and anything glass from all pubs, clubs, dances etc. By this simple action all lethal weapons of misery in bottling or glassing is removed.

The Government could do this by what is saved from costly hospital treatment.

P) As for glass bottles for drink and wine etc from bottle shops all containers also to be provided in plastic or similar soft ware.

Q) Some British licences have acted themselves to pub violence by a simple action.

In towns and villages licences have grouped together forming free club rules

Anyone has access to the premises provided they agree to behave or face the consequences.

They provide the pub with their correct name and address and two passport photos one kept on pub records the other fitted to the pub's unique card. The cards are changed to various colours for six month periods.

If you want a drink the card must be produced each drink. Anyone in breach of rules receives a life ban and immediate ejection.

Other pubs in the scheme are notified and the person is automatically banned there.

Violence and bad behaviour where operated has dropped to virtually nil.

British Police back the scheme.

OR A few pubs have issued punters with five tickets one for each drink as the tickets run out the licensee decides if the punter is now inebriated and must leave or will issue several more tickets if there seems no problem.

These are but a start to consider, some suggestions will no doubt raise heckles of die hards on your panel but unless someone with guts and backbone and who is determined to stop this out of hand behaviour you are wasting time and money in deciding to attempt change.

5) Impact of late opening and 3am lockout.

As my parents found as publicans for many years in Britain, drinkers have only a certain amount of cash to drink.

Secondly their safe capacity running from a couple of pints to 15 or more per session, up to the drinks ridden alcohols.

Initially our hours were 10am to 3pm 5pm to 10pm then 11am to 3pm 6pm to 11pm
~undays closed

Result early drinking saw but a handful drinking two or more drinks.

Evening apart from Friday or Saturday empty untill 8.30pm and packed onwards to 11pm

Our hours stayed as shown and the pattern was the same as for violence in the pub or street rarely one offence a year.

My father would not serve anyone drunk or becoming under the weather.

We had a large army barracks closely built up to a 1000 troops adding to the towns

4,000 population but still stayed violence free.

In England where different hours were tried the result was always as we found everyone leaving late for the pub but expecting to drink all night.

Once all pubs were shut the vast majority went quietly home.

Queensland has to drastically reduce its drinking hours to do any good.

Be it 1am or 3am lock out trouble will always be around, also as long as other venues open into the small hours or all night, i.e. cafe's, restaurants etc. even fast food outlets. True the booze is absent but revellers are now tanked up and stupidity and intolerance reigns.

So close pubs at 11pm, bottle outlets by 9pm, allow clubs or dances to 1am or just midnight. Private clubs should be members only and allowed providing behaviour is good, to open later until possibly 3am but a rule no drunks or large groups allowed admittance.

Also no re-entry for any punter leaving early.

As the pubs close, for all teenagers to be cleared home and those up to 20 also thinned out if they have no legitimate place to go.

Food outlets apart from private bookings closed by midnight.

Ensure at peak closing public transport taxis, trains are prolific to cope with fast evacuation of centres with large zero tolerance Police in full view to all.

Shift removal of anyone causing trouble before it can escalate to large brawls.

In Britain we would line up and push revellers home at closing time it always worked because we stood no messing from anyone.

Courts backed fully on every move.

For decent people wishing a late drink some venues operated strict members only clubs which were self Policed to the letter.

Casinos and private clubs would exceed a late food licence so punters could have a later drink time of 2 hours but the premises had to supply a simple meal say Bacon and eggs to comply.

All punters had to consume the meal.

After licensing hours clubs and casinos could only supply tea, coffee or soft drinks till morning.

Unfortunately no matter what closing time is chosen there will always be too many people on the street at one time.

This is where you either spread drink venues widely over your CBD so one area does not become overamped

Or as suggested you clear all trouble possible youngsters off the streets as soon

as venues shut, once they are broken up any violence chance becomes less probable.

I could enlarge further but I think I have addressed the question sufficiently to make sense.

3) Parents Influence, attitudes to Alcohol Consumption

Following the freedom revolution more and more parents with new found wealth and leisure time, have now for some considerable time turned to alcohol as a leisure activity.

Mothers or parents or ^{those} working from home changed from the morning tea set or coffee morning, to wine or for men beer or spirits. Not content with a glass a day but a bottle or sometimes more.

Now conditions have not changed children need transport to and from school and parents need to shop. Consuming large amounts of alcohol with more at lunch or dinner provides a very serious hidden problem of those people driving whilst seriously in excess of the drink limit.

When a Community Police officer in the 1970's in Bristol City and in an affluent suburb I daily walked, I saw the almost secret drinking habits ever increase, to visiting my usual houses as a friend for a welcome Cuppa or to despatch paperwork to be confronted at 9am with a parent wine glass in hand and a part consumed bottle on the

table. Several glasses would be partaken during my visit. On a few occasions when supervising children leaving school to find a parent with full wine glass in hand at the wheel of a car.

On numerous occasions finding parents sucking of drink having driven; on testing virtually everyone exceeded the legal drink limit three or more times over.

Luckily I caught these stupid parents before a child was killed or maimed.

Their penalty no licence for two or three years to drive.

At regular P.T.A. meetings called by schools I used to talk on the dangers of drink and by doing my job properly encouraged drink specialists to also attend. Many parents were sensible to admit their drink habits and received often free consultation.

I also helped to create a crisis or drink forum which became a ladies club for aerobics etc. to fill the empty hours of the day when drink would rule.

Now many years on and living in a different country, where excessive drink and drunken behaviour is seen as adult and macho and has never changed since formation I quickly have seen how dangerous and out of hand Australia is.

From Britain and Europe the perception of most Australians is that to exist one

has to be in a constant drunken stupor to operate or be acceptable.

Britain has little to shout about but is far less hooked on drink than Australia.

The old well worn adage of Spare the rod and spoil the child has come back to haunt all so called do-gooders time and again, yet they will not dump their stupid Enquete to legalise all forms of violence or reduce or remove the main cause of such violence, drink and drugs.

Today's parents see no harm in providing school children with truck loads of lethal alcohol for schoolies weeks nor home parties.

They don't accept the young lives lost, or ruined or the un-wanted pregnant teen girls who being so drunk could never identify the prospective father, nor the cost to the system in caring for yet another single parent and child.

There are decent kids who abhor all violence drink and drugs, they deserve medals especially the ones from broken homes.

Urgent Needs.

- a) Respect of one another and all authority must be re-gained.
- b) Wrongdoers must be effectively punished with no soft options, totally remove the excuse culture, no more useless cautions, deterred sentences, every conviction must be

recorded and all past offences in court be used to ever increase punishments and prison time served. No early release for any form of violent act.

Make prison detention centre terms 2 years mandatory for first offence and increasing by 3 each other incident.

C) Re-introduce conscription for all school leavers with discipline discipline the norm for minimum 2 years provide apprenticeships in all trades to allow person a chance of trade when back in living street.

College grad to serve military service for 2 years on completion of study.

All made mandatory to all.

D) Cut out all alcohol related adverts in the media and on television. Remove all gimmicks like alcohol ads and other such rubbish.

E) Remove cash as payment for all unemployed and hourly pay only in food or clothing vouchers this would stem single teenagers binge drinking while begging at home.

F) Encourage parents to lock up all household booze at all times kids are present.

G) Heavily fine and imprison any stupid parent for 12 months etc for supply to any under age person mandatory.

H) Ban the use of all cell phones to school children until 18 this would stop all present texting etc, and fuelling violence especially after drinking.

4) Instill in all parents no alcohol for any person under 18 years of age.

5) Provide free consultation to all parents with drink problems.

The task of re-dressing three or more generations of their toxic social lifestyles will take a great deal of push but when started must never lose pace or stop.

6) You have to instill in today's youth and teens, parents who drink are abhorrent youngsters can quite often sway the balance once put on the right road.

At present the Nanny State with non-horrible policies and out right threat blitz smokers as if they are the last epidemic illness in the world.

For all the talk, threats and heavy handed behaviour little change, smokers so far haven't unpaved streets beating ordinary punter to death with their cigarette nor smoke emitted. Yet are seen as the biggest villain in society. Harmful drug abuse and alcohol which kill and seriously maim thousands is almost seen as acceptable.

Remember America tried prohibition, what happened all legal alcohol was banned but immediately replaced by the most lethal cocktails of home made poison. This killed hundreds of thousands and maimed for life countless more though no true records were ever released as it would have shown the Government how wrong

it was and could never be stamped out.

No lessons were learned nor any drop in consumption.

billions of counterfeit dangerous cigarettes have flooded the market to combat present price hikes etc and Government hype.

Drug consumption was increased as it cheap to do drugs than smoke.

No tobacco cigarettes have been made but not used to help people of normal cigarettes, patches, gum and pills are useless I know only too well.

The same with obesity not everyone wants to be huge but the health service threats of no medical treatment and nagging has changed nothing. Many people cannot shed a kilo many have gone problems etc, yet daily punters are conned by thousands of loose weight rubbish of which less than 1/2 may have a temporary effect.

So come on you clever health guru's let's have some meaningful treatment and help.

Now to the Villains :-

- (i) who holds the drink industry? Coles & Woolworths
- (ii) who holds all present rubbish food full of sugar, salt, fats additives colourings, poisons chemicals etc? Coles & Woolworths
- (iii) There are no more local food shops etc all destroyed by? Coles & Woolworths
- (iv) Meat:- majority tough tasteless rubber totally inedible who to blame? Coles Woolworths and Government only Slaughterhouses.

v) Lets not forget another fact look at the well
stuffed totally obese Politicians, Health Staff
in particular many who continue to smoke
Pot calling the kettle black ???
I should say no.

4) Impact on front line Emergency Staff

In a word sheer horror.

Not only you public beaten to a pulp but
Police, Ambulance staff, nurses, doctors all
health staff etc.

These people lay down their lives to help
others yet are treated like dogs by the scum
of this country, why? well its fun as
they don't fight back. No ^{because} the courts
would crucify them.

Why explain to me are health staff not
protected by law for in hospital etc assault ???
which lawyer or dead from the back up
Judicial idiot thought this up ???

I know I always had nurses too frightened
by the Health care lobby to complain for the
most terrible assaults and life lasting injuries.
How many of these verbally front ~~line~~ ^{line}
heroes are lost daily? far too many not
to be concerned.

America for years has tried every soft
option nothing working now it is immediate
lock up for 20 or more years to assault
a public servant even life in some States

The only answer to any violent problem is lock away all violent weapons for as long as possible. At least they cannot be used.

Zero tolerance has to reign in this country to all crime or violence etc.

The centre of this country is empty so where is the problem for isolated prisons ???

Decide on anything less and you may as well let this country sink ever deeper into the mire.

5) Economic Cost of Alcohol related violence.

In a word Billions of dollars if true records of every incident are properly recorded

As a taster Britain or at least just England and Wales (the other countries have their own figures) 800,000 glassing or bottling incidents happen each year costing 1 million pounds plus.

Other incidents from verbal abuse, to a ~~punch~~ punch or beating and death are also well in excess of several million offences a year similar assaults not recorded equal these shocking figures.

Australia with a tiny population virtually equals these figures with assaults per person and certainly more deaths per head of population.

Just think 1 million comes only Police attendance, the ambulance and hospital casualty

add questions, intensive care, plastic surgery
stems, consultations, after care disability
loss of earnings etc, etc that's before the
courts, lawyers, barristers fees, judges magistrates
prison lock up and care and food and
the figures become huge too large to
easily quantify.

Increase all by ten per cent yearly growth
and the figures become billions.

The answer has to be reduction in drink
outlets, no street alcohol, no glasses or bottles
only plastic replacements, immediate lock up
mandatory long prison sentence no remission.

Full compensation to every victim.

Total zero tolerance and return to the
street of foot patrol ^{police} officers. No laws.

Minimum sentence for a punch thrown 2 years
lock up mandatory.

But botching, glassing, stabbing etc, etc,
5 years first offence doubled by each offence.

Australia has plenty of wealth at
present throws everywhere on rubbish,
detention centres and prisons could be
funded on just the interest of each State.

I would also provide hospital theatres
with a locked room where the glasser etc could
have their eyes sewn open to watch a
surgeon or plastic surgeon try to rebuild
what has been destroyed.

Yours faithfully

(Prisoner)

P. J. Hatford (M)