

From: webmaster@parliament.qld.gov.au
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Subject: ONLINE SUBMISSION - Alcohol-Related Violence in Queensland

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ONLINE SUBMISSION - Inquiry into alcohol-related violence

Name: Kylie
Email:
State: QLD
Postcode:

Best practice harm minimisation measures:

Young people today mix party drugs and alcohol along and high caffeine soft drinks with alcohol. They can access high content alcohol drinks in easy to consume pre-mix bottles or cans. People drink at home or at a party before they hit the pub and clubs. Result - access to alcohol. Drugs or caffeine highs to keep drinkers awake longer. Realistically people can 10am - 5am - 19 hours of consumption. Caffeine based energy drinks should not be allowed to be mixed with alcohol - if not banned altogether High alcohol content premixed drinks should be banned High alcohol drinks should be banned Trading hours should be wound back to 3am. People will leave residences earlier to go out knowing they have to go home earlier - and cutting back total possible consumption time by two hours.

The impact of late opening hours:

As above - people currently have a possible 19 hour consumption period. The Government should be doing everything it can to cut this back. Close pubs and night clubs at 3am. Lockout at 1am. Most people I know feel safer with the lock out and think it is working to keep the thugs off the street. More transport is need to move people out of areas.

Flow-on issues for emergency service workers, police, and frontline health workers:

User pays - late traders should be paying an ambulance and police levy on top of their fees - they make millions off alcohol and should pay for the damage it causes.

Education campaigns and their role in cultivating effective social change in terms of community attitudes to alcohol consumption:

There are Govt and Drinkwise campaigns and they are effective in getting the message out - people are hearing it. However, this is not changing behaviour. People don't see themselves as perpetrators of binge drinking. They see role model stars behaving this way - it normalises binge drinking and violence - the cool factor. That is what we are battling - along with the millions of dollars spent in alcohol advertising and sponsorship that are directed at normalising this product. It is fast becoming a food staple - part of the weekly shopping. A daily consumer item rather than something for special occasions/celebrations or a luxury item. We need to introduce compulsory RSA marshals into all late trading venues. The role of these people would be to monitor patrons before they get to charged up. They would need to be specially skilled people in dealing with people in difficult situations - almost like counsellors. To diffuse situations and remind people to take it easy. The cost should be borne by industry - they make millions from alcohol.

The role of parents in influencing attitudes towards alcohol consumption:

Parents should not buy alcohol for their teenage children.