

From: on behalf of Law, Justice and Safety Committee

Subject: FW: ONLINE SUBMISSION - Alcohol-Related Violence in Queensland

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ONLINE SUBMISSION - Inquiry into alcohol-related violence

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Best practice harm minimisation measures:

1. I am not in the medical profession however from my experience excessive amounts of alcohol consumed leads more often than not to violent behaviour eg family violence, youth street fights, driving under the influence can cause road rage. 2. The Tablelands Regional Council Safer Communities committee has initiated in partnership with the QLD Police an Alcohol Accord to reduce anti social behaviour in licenced premises and on the street. 3. As this has only recently been introduced we have had 3 people banned from licenced premises as time goes on Police will gather data 4. Early intervention harm minimisation programs into schools for prep to year 4 after that young people are easily influence by the culture of society

The impact of late opening hours:

5. Extended hours has increased the number of alcohol related violence incidences across the Tablelands 6. An elevated level of street and family violence incidences 7. More incidences of people driving under the influence as we dont have public transport or taxis (after hours) on the Tablelands. We also have higher incidences of damage to public & private property after these hours 8. Licensees hours for serving alcohol should be restricted to 10pm or midnight with a heavier penalties for serving under age drinkers or anyone caught buying for an underage person

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

9. On the Tablelands we have a limited number of police resources for 65000 sq kilometres of area, therefore police have to travel a long way to address family violence leaving police to prioritise there resources to cover many incidences that would not happen if alcohol was not involves 10. Reduce the hours that alcohol is served and educate both children, youth & adults of their responsibilities and repercussions of consuming (binge) alcohol

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

11. Early intervention - by providing harm minimisation and the effects of alcohol consumption campaigns to very young children (eg the no smoking campaign) so that it becomes anti social to drink like it is to smoke for our young people fostering a non binge drinking culture. Also as was done on the cigarette packets put picture descriptions on the side of alcohol containers regarding the effects of binge drinking on a) mental health b) physical health c) future development of their unborn children 12. TV ads 13. Minimal 14. A Strategic Marketing Plan to encompasses a) education, b) reduction in consumption of alcohol & c) what are the effects short & long term on a person. This needs to be a national comprehensive consertive long term strategy as we are now seeing generational culture of bing drinking and the effects. This should not be left for schools alone to deliver as the focus is not covering the at risk and disengaged and the schools have failed any obvious reduction in young people taking drugs or consuming alcohol. The media promotes on the news the drinking of sporting heroes as being something to aspire to and that alcohol and drugs are generally accepted in the sporting scene

The role of parents in influencing attitudes towards alcohol consumption:

15. Parents are a major influence but no more than the media and this is why we need a national long term (minium 20 years) campaign/strategy delivered to the very young, early teens, adults, parents and grandparents as the drinking culture is embedded generationally. 16. Educate parents on how to instill responsible attitudes to drinking. Make it difficult for alcohol supplies to put these drinks on the market aimed at young people and reduce the alcohol content in all alcohol related drinks.

The economic cost of alcoholrelated violence:

17. Enormous - Police resources, court resource, drink driving, youth workers, community support workers, health workers, prisons, and the ultimate cost is death it goes on and on and on. 18. By implementing an education strategy which covers a) education b) the effects of alcohol and what it is going to do to you whatever your age is c) more accountability and repercussions for adults supplying to underage drinkers d) reduction in alcohol % in all drinks

Any other Comments:

Binge drinking in youth is at Pandemic levels in our society and so ingrained and embedded in our culture that it will take a committed national long term strategy to see cultural change, reduction in alcohol related violence, reduction in alcohol related health conditions in Australia. Statistics show that alcohol is the preferred drug of choice and its legal! One final note the age of drinking should be raised to 21 years of age. If you would like to discuss any of my responses please feel free to ring or email me Thanks Shiralee