

Amanda Honeyman**From:** webmaster@parliament.qld.gov.au**Sent:** Sunday, 11 October 2009 6:34 PM**To:** Law, Justice and Safety Committee**Subject:** ONLINE SUBMISSION - Alcohol-Related Violence in Queensland**ONLINE SUBMISSION - Inquiry into alcohol-related violence****Name:** Edward & Ann Pitt**Email:****Address:****City:** Albany Creek**State:** QLD**Postcode:** 4035**Phone Number:****Best practice harm minimisation measures:**

As for this subject we really do not know why it is that alcohol does cause so many people to become violent, or what measures can be taken to reduce this. What we do know however is that in our own local suburb there seems to have been an increasing number of drunken people wandering through our parkland along bicycle paths etc late at night.

The impact of late opening hours:

We do not believe there is ANY reason to increase opening hours for trading. The number of problems caused in the community by these drunken mainly youths has been evident for all to see. Lights, even the high up ones along the bicycle paths, have been smashed, graffiti on paths, bridges, etc & smashes glass everywhere. We live on a path which comes up from the parkland behind our home & on many occasions have been disturbed by these people roaming the park, then making their way up the path next to our house. On at least one occasion we have had rocks thrown at our roof, resulting in some damage. Childrens play equipment which used to be in the park behind us has been vandalised. On 2 occasions the slippery slides (made of plastic) have been burned down & litter bins uprooted & thrown into creeks etc.

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

It would seem to us that the police & emergency workers have plenty to do without having to attend to drunken revellers. It is extremely difficult for police to actually catch the perpetrators of such antisocial behaviour as described previously, despite the fact that fires have occasionally been set in close proximity to a park & behind the Albany Creek State school & All Saints Catholic school. By the time police are called & attend, mostly the youths have gone on elsewhere. We understand that at least once when the police did get to the fire & apprehend those there, that it was impossible to prove their responsibility. The excuse given at that time was that they had seen the fire & were "trying to put it out".

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

Sorry. No idea. Whatever campaigns are in place they appear to be failing with the increase in binge drinking, particularly among the young people. It would be a good thing if role models in the sporting world, for instance, could be found to speak AGAINST drinking. Presently the sporting codes seem to be making matters worse with the continual news stories of their drunken behaviour making just about daily headlines in the media..

The role of parents in influencing attitudes towards alcohol consumption:

Parents should be role models for their children. Living in homes where Mum & Dad are frequently drunk is not a good example for the children. Also parents supplying booze for such events as "Schoolies" is really stupid. It would be a great thing if parents could encourage a sensible attitude to drinking & if they MUST drink, to do it RESPONSIBLY. Perhaps if parents were made to collect their children from any party or in the event that they are put in the watch house for a few hours, it might make them (the parents) more keen to instill responsibility into their children. No one wants to be dragged out of bed to drive into the city to collect children in the early hours of the morning!

The economic cost of alcoholrelated violence:

We do not know what the cost is but would expect it to be huge. Perhaps an increase in fines might be a good start. Also where there is any injury resulting from alcohol related violence, the offender should incur a gaol sentence, & not just a "slap on the wrist" as often seems to be the case.

Any other Comments:

We ask that our views be taken into consideration when considering licensing hours. We certainly do not want to see hours expended, rather they should be curtailed.