

RECEIVED

14 OCT 2009

Law, Justice and Safety
Committee

From: webmaster@parliament.qld.gov.au

Sent: Wednesday, 14 October 2009 8:22 AM

To: Law, Justice and Safety Committee

Subject: ONLINE SUBMISSION - Alcohol-Related Violence in Queensland

ONLINE SUBMISSION - Inquiry into alcohol-related violence

42

Name: David Best

Best practice harm minimisation measures:

My guess is a small percentage of individuals become violent offenders when drunk. If you could identify these people, then there would be much less harm. Pubs and clubs appear to be able to manage these people whilst inside. There probably needs to be a strategy where these people are taken some where when ejected from a pub or club - a safe place - where they cannot punch or assault anyone. They should not be put on the streets where the violence appears to start. Also clubs and pubs will know the ones they regularly have problems with - I am sure they could identify several 'high risk' patrons that could be targetted for counselling.

The impact of late opening hours:

I think the 3am lockout has been successful to an extent - but I do not think you will find statistics that proves the lock out reduces violence on the streets. I think the lockout should start at 4am - rather than 3am. The government should allow some clubs / pubs with good safety records to not have to comply with the lockout (this could also be an encouragement to clubs to improve their safety record eg. good pubs / clubs get rewards and clubs / pubs with poor records should have to comply with tougher measures - eg an earlier lockout or even shorter opening hours). I think the next step is allowing clubs / pubs to stay open later on weekends (eg. 5am to 7am), and stop serving alcohol from 5am and serve food / soft drinks. This would allow patrons to sober up and allow a more gradual dispersement of patrons after 5am. Also do something similar to Victoria where 'chill out' zones are set up for intoxicated patrons who are not allowed into clubs (due to intoxication).

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

The problem is that many people do not know their limitations when drinking - and how they behave when drunk. There is a small percentage of people who get violent when drunk. If there was a way to identify these people - and maybe counsell them - then ban from clubs if necessary. I think you also need emergency service workers, police and frontline health workers who know what they are getting into - and ensure they have proper training before going into a busy Valley on a Friday or Saturday night.

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

More education is needed on problematic drinking. For example, a regular binge drinker may not be an alcoholic but a regular binge drinker needs to realise that their behaviour is not completely normal - and should decrease their binge drinking.

The role of parents in influencing attitudes towards alcohol consumption:

Parents should be part of any educational program. This is where attitudes to alcohol are learnt. A lot of parents do not hit the Valley on a Friday night - but heaps still go to parties and binge drink.

The economic cost of alcoholrelated violence:

Very high. More resources should be put into alcohol detox and rehab services.

14/10/2009