

**From:** webmaster@parliament.qld.gov.au

**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 October 2009 2:12 PM

**To:** Law, Justice and Safety Committee

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

45

**ONLINE SUBMISSION - Inquiry into alcohol-related violence**

**Name:** Alexander  
**Company:** savenaturefree  
**Position:** founder  
**Email:**  
**Address:**  
**City:**  
**State:** QLD

**Best practice harm minimisation measures:**

1. Alcohol fuelled crime. Its cause and how it relates to community violence. The alcohol molecule is inflammable and acts on the brain like a neuro toxin. It triggers a survival response when it crosses the blood/brain barrier. With the brain in this emergency survival mode resources needed for survival ie heart beat and breathing are safeguarded as the body shuts down functions least required for survival. This survival action progresses as the amount of alcohol consumed increases. The brain areas involved in rational and ethical thought are most probably the first effected when the brain is in this survival mode. A sober person will not drive at the risk of losing their drivers license for two years but rationality is not functioning at it's best while drunk. So a late night drunk individual is not capable of thinking with higher thought patterns. They have effectively reduced their ethical behavior to that worse than an animal. 2. Education, regulation, restriction, enforcement. 3. No data. 4. What works? Drunk diversion centers that hold mandatory AA meetings. Prohibition. It isn't fool proof but it reduces every area of concern significantly. What doesn't work? Higher taxes, deregulation, self regulation, good behavior bonds. Fines, prison.

**The impact of late opening hours:**

5. Later opening hours means more intoxication = more time to start a fight. 6. It has increased it, but only initially. Better for all if the sale of alcohol ceased at midnight. 7. no data 8. changes should be made to reduce opening hours to midnight, and alcohol service strategies should include stopping the sale of spirits and full strength ale within an hour of closing time, to reduce alcohol-related violence?

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

9. Dealing with alcohol-related violence can cause high levels of stress. The senselessness of drunken violence is often shocking. The child-neglect and child-abuse witnessed by police and other emergency service workers has on-going effects. 10. By insuring workers understand the psychological factors involved, see Question 1: Best practice harm minimisation measures

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

11. By insuring the facts are included in school education Fact 1. If alcohol was only a recent discovery, it would be difficult to obtain even with a prescription. Fact 2, The danger that alcohol presents is due to it being a drug. Not just any drug, a mood altering drug of dependence to a large section of people. Fact 3, The more often it is consumed the higher the chance of dependency. Fact 4, Alcohol consumption will shut down your ability to think rationally. Fact 5 The vast majority of alcoholics respond well if they regularly attend the non-religious AA 12 steps meetings. I'm sure I can think of more given time. 12. No data 13. No data 14. They should be targeted in early school life. Prevention is better than cure. Often measures like campaigns that deal with the symptoms of excess drinking in the community are counter productive. Parents should be banned from drinking in front of children.

**The role of parents in influencing attitudes towards alcohol consumption:**

15. Children do not as we say, but as we do. SO parents influencing is high and need urgent attention. 16. Heavy fines for drinking in front of the kids.

**The economic cost of alcohol-related violence:**

17. No data however you can bet it is much higher than official estimates. Many morning accidents pass a breath test but are high in blood alcohol from the night before.

**Any other Comments:**

Politicians are under great strain from lobbyists and corruption, The inquires conclusions may be therefor found to be inconclusive or under funded. Some of the most logical recommendations get swept under the carpet. Anyone for a game of ring a ring a rosie?