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To:

Law, Justice and Safety Committee

Subject: 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:

Q1. It may not always be the level of alochol consumed rather than the reaction to it. I do however think on the whole the amount of alcohol consumed is significant factor that can lead some people to make very poor errors of judgment. There are also practical considerations that trigger people to be frustrated and for situations to be escalted such as, limited taxis available, control measures of the pubs/clubs after someone levels. Q4. Need responsible service of alcohol enforced, it is often young people behind the bar that aften are not comfortable saying no to some for fear of their reaction. Taxation of alcohol is not the answer as it may encourage people to choose cheap and more dangerous forms drugs and alcohol. Early closing hours works, as it encourages people to go home. For this to work effectively however this needs to be applied uniformerly. Perhaps this could be supported with coordinated bus and train services to assist people get home safety. Public Safety Officers could be available to encourage people to make good decision, food / coffee vans to assist people sober up.

The impact of late opening hours:

Lock out is a good idea. Late opening hours should be considered a priviledge not a right of clubs - clubs that offer food/coffee late at night should be encouraged. Those that have Public Safety Officers to support patrons getting home safety etc.

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

My friends were recently in emergency following their sister having an epelptic fit and they had to wait four hours and during that time as it was a Saturday there were over eight young men who attended emergency due to injuries from fights. It is clear the individuals were drunk, they were abusive towards staff, they took up valuable bed spaces. It is so unfair on our emergency service workers, those that are in avoidable alcohol related injuries should have to compensate the community by way of a fine or community service.

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

I feel the one punch campaign is starting to work, as is the campaign on kids watching their parents drink.