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From: webmaster@parliament.qld.gov.au

Sent: Tuesday, 6 October 2009 12:03 PM

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:

(I'll just mark by responses to the Q's. with the relevant no's.) 1. when I used to hit the pubs and nightclubs some 30 years ago; there was the occasional punch up; then the guys would shake hands and that was it. Now, from what we see in the papers; it's people acting savagely towards each other; I'm sure our ancestors didn't behave so violently. And we're supposedly living in a civilised society. I believe it's the introduction of mind altering drugs to cause people to act in such 'animal' fashion towards each other; 2. Not sure what measures there are. The hotel proprietors here in Gympie have recently introduced a "book" and it keeps lists of names of troublemakers; not quiet sure how it operates; and it's probably too early to know if it's effective. Let's hope it helps in any way. If pubs are happy enough to take the moneys from these kids for the alcohol; do they in turn, call a cab for them when it's time for them to come home; or just send them out to the streets; where they could be standing a couple of hours waiting for a cab at a rank with drunks?? and druggies??? (in the past 6 months here in Gympie; at least 2 men have been king hit; one left unconscious on the ground: the callous assailant walked away and left him; and yet there's no security cameras operating at that very taxi rank (Monkland Street)????Could the pubs; nightclubs; call taxis or parents or whatever; to come and collect them and keep them safe (ie security guard waiting out the front until transport arrives?). Obviously not all are going to ask for this assistance; and there's not much the publican can do about them. I contacted my local State MP some 4 years ago; with an idea I had to prevent drink spiking. She took it up with the then Minister for Health; who wrote back a pathetic reply that there were posters up in the venue's bathrooms; etc. warning of the dangers of drink spiking. Yeah, right; who the hell reads the posters at that age???? (I think this may have been the now imprisoned Gordon Nuttall). Why aren't plastic cups compulsory everywhere; these idiots who've committed such heinous crimes as 'glassing' : they'll be copied (sadly) by other idiots! So why wait; let's get plastic into all the licensed venues now; and beverages in plastic bottles. 3. My daughter went out to celebrate her 18th birthday in March of this year. She went with a few other mates (as not many of her former school mates had yet turned 18). Ironically, despite all of our information re: drink spiking; her boyfriend's drink was spiked. The hotel staff treated him badly (this is a lad who got an OP 4 last year; is at Q'ld Uni this year; is a volunteer life saver); accusing him of being drunk; never called any medical assistance; just told bar staff not to serve him; etc. He was literally just sitting and vomiting all over himself; (to even the untrained eye it would have been obvious that there was something serious wrong). He's a lad who's easily embarrassed and sensitive. No way would he not get to a toilet if he could. He had a racing pulse; his mother (also a trained life saver; and up to date in the latest first aid knowledge and practices); collected him and took him home. Apparently his eyes rolled back in his head; he couldn't answer easy questions; and at one stage; asked to see Kevin Rudd. The following morning; he went to the Police Station (as he felt totally violated); and in the absence of a blood test; there was nothing that could be done (he had to catch a train that arvo to get back to Brisbane). Whilst we felt very sorry for him; because he is such a good bloke; I couldn't help but wonder if that drink was meant for our daughter?? Goodness knows what would have happened to her. She won't even take a Panadol for headaches; and her last immunisation she was ill! And yet no one wants to hear of my idea for 'tamper' proof drinking cups !!!

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

Appropriately trained police; security guards; etc. be stationed at public hospitals emergency wards. Health workers; etc. should not have their lives jeopardised by some of the people affected by ICE; LSD; Ecstasy; etc.

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

Here in Gympie, we have a wonderful advocate for NO DRUGS; drinking in moderation. Her name is

She is about 40; has dreadlocks; totally covered in tats; and lots of stuff pierced. She's been to hell and back. I asked her once if she would give a talk at my daughter's Catholic Secondary school here in Gympie;. She was only too happy to oblige. She was going to share her story of 'to hell and back'. However, when I mentioned this to the then Principal; he said 'yeah, but if I invited her in; and she spoke to the kids; they'd get the message : well she did all of that; and she's still alive". Maybe he had a point; I don't know; but I felt it was better than 'malaise" Maybe we should take these kids through detention centres; lock ups; jails; etc. drug rehabilitation centres; and make it real to them. Why can't that become part of their education. They know so much about physics; chemistry; literature; etc. but come out of high school thinking they're invincible and that only the 'losers' become addicted; or get caught and jailed; or are killed due to drink driving; etc. etc. etc. Let's take the kids to the above mentioned places ; compulsorily; as part of their real world education.

The role of parents in influencing attitudes towards alcohol consumption:

Parents need to be invited into Local Town Halls for a forum on what's happening to the kids; and have a 'think tank' about ideas. Their local papers could advertise it freely; (an d radio stations); giving plenty of notice to do some creative thinking.

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Kids 'silence' parents: 'oh don't go to that; my mates will think I'm a loser if you do'. etc. etc. so parents should be able to speak without giving their full names; etc. No idea how parents can assist in instilling responsible attitudes. However, my husband and I have a drink at home nearly every night (I have a gold; he a full strength stubby). It's no big deal. On special occasions; we have a glass of wine or two; I'm thinking that if grog isn't treated as such a big deal; hopefully if our kids see others drinking until their legless; they won't see anything cool in it. Our 18 year old daughter stopped going to parties (at 16 mind you); because too many of her girlfriends drank until they PASSED OUT. (not vomitted; but actually passed out). As a result she had no social life until recently.

Any other Comments:

Please put the forum out to all parties (publicans, hotel staff, health workers, teenagers (who probably won't participate); and parents. If there's written feedback required; maybe accept anonymous contributions; as hotel staff or health workers might be fearful of employer retribution). The discussion has to be kept going; but there has to be a start date; and outcomes sought; otherwise it will just fizzle out to nothing. While we're talking about it; that's a start; but keep it out there. Thank you
Anne Vetter