

From: webmaster@parliament.qld.gov.au
 Sent: Monday, 19 October 2009 3:54 PM
 To: Law, Justice and Safety Committee
 Subject: ONLINE SUBMISSION - Alcohol-Related Violence in Queensland

60

ONLINE SUBMISSION - Inquiry into alcohol-related violence

Name: Peter Newland

Company: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

City: [REDACTED]

State: QLD

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Best practice harm minimisation measures:

Some individuals [male or female] are best described as bullies who, in the older parlance simply... 'cannot hold their grog'. A small minority may have a psychological predilection but with over 25 years experience of commanding people... these seemed to be in the minority. Unfortunately the explosion of 'rights' and a contempt for authority in any form are a breeding ground. There is no fear of retribution and even a 'badge of honour' within the peer group. In 1999 we produced a database coupled to a barcoded card as a loyalty mechanism to track patrons through various Brisbane nightclubs and even prototyped it to track drinks sold. The incentive was a loyalty reward program and small discount on drink purchases. The card did NOT have any personal details of the holder, simply a barcode and human readable number. The match was made offsite to a central database. The trial was introduced into a number of clubs owned by the same Company. The trial was successful but full implementation was not completed. We relocated to Melbourne for the following 5 years and lost track of the system. The concept is simple to implement and maintain, does not expose personal details on the card but records, and can now do so in real time, entrance/exit from venues and could easily be extended to drink purchases. A loyalty/reward factor is used to encourage use.

The impact of late opening hours:

Long opening hours will always encourage greater consumption over a longer period. Unfortunately shorter hours may simply transfer the problem to packaged liquor and into parks and streets. As a long serving Reserve Army Officer (25 years) closing alcohol venues at earlier times needed to be policed to ensure that soldiers did in fact return to the lines. Three am is probably a little too late but I do accept that the modern youth is much more of a nocturnal animal. I suspect that 2:00am may be a better compromise.

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

Emergency workers in this area are exposed to the worst behavior, unfortunately their chosen career puts them in the worst possible place....but that in no way gives a licence to abuse them in the execution of their duties. Violence towards emergency workers must be treated harshly with the soft options of....disturbed childhood....was too drunk to rememberand then a 'small' fine with community service or a suspended sentence is nary a deterrent. In many ways the consequence of breaking the law must have a fear value and not be a badge of 'honour' amongst the offenders peer group...as it currently appear to be!

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

Education does not seem to work in a wide variety of areas - witness the road toll - we need a combination of early intervention education - parental education and substantial penalties for breaches. Activities such as 'schoolies' need to be de-glorified and under age drinking peer acceptance could possibly be targeted. The alcoPop tax seemed to be a good idea but shortlived and easily circumvented especially by the manufacturers. A 'medical' tax on alcohol might help if all the revenue is channeled into the emergency services...almost a user pays 'insurance'

The role of parents in influencing attitudes towards alcohol consumption:

A very high correlation. Under age drinking at home simply reinforces the acceptability. The problem here is the parent rather than the child. Again a carrot/stick approach would seem to be the only answer. The modern child seems to have far less respect for authority in any form and this begins with an erosion of parental / teacher authority and the replacement with excessive 'right'. At the risk of being berated the excessive expansion of 'rights' at the expenses of parents/teachers is to be deplored and carries on to the emergency services. How often have the Police heard... 'you can't touch me, I'm only xx years old'

The economic cost of alcohol related violence:

The economic cost covers the people who will not go to affected areas for fear of involvement with drunken louts, of both sexes. Nowhere in Brisbane should be a 'no go' area for the general public, this the reason for funding initially the Police and enacting penalties for anti-social behavior. Currently the penalties seem to be ineffective. The short term benefit to the venue is quickly eroded by the long term loss to the community in both economic and resource terms.

Any other Comments:

Our barcoded, but virtually anonymous, ID card, perhaps combined with the over 18 card is a cost effective suggestion to perhaps help the problem. It would need to be carefully considered in light of the objections sure to be raised by civil liberties

20/10/2009

groups...but, remember, it is my civil liberties that are being eroded and denied by these actions. The civil liberty of the individual must always be balanced by its impact on the community as a whole. The economic cost to the community must also be measured and addressed. Currently the offender is in the ascendancy and the community as a whole is suffering...witness the need for this committee.