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The Research Director  
Law, Justice and Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

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### INQUIRY INTO ALCOHOL-RELATED VIOLENCE - SUBMISSION

Redland City Council welcomes the opportunity to provide the following submission in response to the Queensland Parliament Law, Justice and Safety Committee's inquiry into alcohol-related violence in Queensland on the following terms of reference:

- best practice harm minimisation
- impact of late opening hours
- flow-on issues for emergency service workers, police and front-line health workers
- education campaigns and their role in cultivating effective social change in terms of community attitudes to alcohol consumption
- the role of parents in influencing attitudes towards alcohol consumption
- the economic cost of alcohol-related violence

This submission has been written by the Community and Social Planning Group, Redland City Council.

If you have require any further information, please contact  
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We look forward to the Committee report to the Legislative Assembly anticipated to occur in 2010.

Yours sincerely

Frank Pearce  
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**Law, Justice and Safety Committee**  
**Inquiry into Alcohol-related Violence in Queensland**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. A whole of government response and partnerships with the community are required to:
  - a) make significant cultural and behavioural change to reduce the incidence of alcohol-related violence
  - b) engage with the community to ensure active civic participation to encourage whole-of-community responses for effective placemaking
  - c) improve service provision to island, rural and remote communities
2. Programs that aim at improving community safety by enhancing the collection and recording by police of alcohol intelligence information, and by applying this information to reduce the harms associated with the excessive consumption of alcohol.
3. State government should adopt and implement strategies such as the draft liquor licensing guidelines for local government to assist response to extended trading hours, alcohol management, providing community amenity and ensuring community safety, health and wellbeing.
4. Adequate ongoing funding support and leadership from federal and state governments is fundamental for capacity building and the successful implementation of:
  - a) community education campaigns, programming, activities and other preventative measures
  - b) facilitating networks
5. This submission would like to draw the Inquiry's attention to Council's plans for innovative proposals that will require a collaborative and multi-stakeholder approach to assist development of initiatives that provide a range of entertainment alternatives such as the Redland City Lights and youth spaces.

## **RESPONSE TO TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **Best practice harm minimisation**

Implementing responsible alcohol service programs to create safer drinking environments and involving the community, whole-of-government and other stakeholders to develop best practice measures will develop effective best practice harm minimisation measures.

It is also recognised that there is a strong association between rates of violence and the number of licences in any given postcode that sell alcohol to be consumed on the premises, particularly once licence density reaches a critical point. This should be considered by local governments when making land use planning decisions.

### **Impact of late opening hours**

There are concerns with the linking of gaming licences and liquor licences and its flow on effects for extended trading hours.

Guidelines that assist local government respond to extended trading hours, alcohol management, community amenity and ensuring community safety, health and wellbeing, should be developed by State government/liquor licensing.

### **Flow-on issues for emergency service workers, police and front-line health workers**

Initiatives such as the Liquor Licensing Industry Advisory Group (lead agency Police) which bring together a range of stakeholders to respond to related issues have been effective at a local level. Membership of the advisory group includes:

- local hotel management
- Police
- Redland City Council
- DrugArm
- Queensland Health

Flow on issues of alcohol-related violence is of particular concern for island communities where there are often no health or emergency care facilities or services present on the islands. Integrated service delivery models are currently being investigated for the Southern Moreton Bay Islands, such as:

#### *SMBI Family Support Initiative*

Initiate an early intervention family support model on the SMBI which will provide support and referral services for children with high needs and their families. Children may face greater challenges as a result of experiences that have affected their development, behaviour and/or emotional well-being.

By intervening early, children and families are given stronger opportunities to build upon their strengths to ensure greater success in education outcomes, social and emotional well-being.

A range of responses are proposed in this initiative including a focus on integrated service delivery and drug and alcohol prevention programs.

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

Alcohol has a prominent role in communities and is linked with recreation, socialising and entertaining and major events. Unfortunately, it can be also associated with

crime, violence and other anti-social behaviour which can affect the lives of individuals and the community. Due to the role alcohol has, it is unlikely that alcohol-related events can be prevented by simple access reduction strategies and enforcement measures, but rather a changing of cultural attitudes toward alcohol and violence through community involvement and public education.

There are a number of local, State and national initiatives that are endeavouring to create social change:

### **Local Level**

#### **Redland City Council – Youth Citizens Program**

There is currently a 'Fatal Vision Program' aimed at school aged groups 16yrs and under that uses beer goggles to educate youth about the physical impacts from alcohol. The program partners with school chaplains and has been very popular.

**Bayside Adolescent Boarding Incorporated (BABI)** – provides a training and education for a support group in schools aimed at 'key support friends' for young people.

### **State Level**

#### **One Punch can Kill**

The One Punch Can Kill campaign is aimed at preventing senseless violence among young people, and about stopping them from making split-second decisions that could ruin their lives or the lives of others. It targets 'Generation Y' using modern media and technology, and informs today's youth that acts of violence can have very serious and damaging consequences.

One Punch Can Kill is the result of recommendations from the Government's Youth Violence Task Force, which called for a targeted media strategy to send home the message of anti-violence.

Premier Anna Bligh, Commissioner Bob Atkinson, Paul Stanley of the Matthew Stanley Foundation, and the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group are among many key supporters who encourage the community to get behind the campaign to stop the violence that is ruining young lives.

#### **Party Safe Program**

This program provides some ideas to assist in holding successful, enjoyable and safe parties for everyone concerned including parents, hosts and guests. It encourages registration of a party two weeks in advance to provide the police with the details they need to know if they are called to a party to deal with an incident.

### **National Level**

#### **Good Sports Program**

Good Sports is a national sport development initiative of the Australian Drug Foundation that enhances the critical role community sporting clubs play in their communities. The program helps clubs to change their culture so it is more focused on young people and families and less on the consumption of alcohol at high risk levels.

The Good Sports Program has been proven to improve club management practices, reduce the dependence on revenue generated by the sale of alcohol, increase club

sponsorship revenue and to lift participation rates. An independent evaluation of Good Sports, conducted by La Trobe University in 2003, showed Good Sports provided the following benefits for community sporting clubs:

- New culture attracts families and juniors
- Growth in memberships and juniors teams
- More people socialising at clubs
- New revenue streams
- Changes in behaviour of members
- Improved relationships with parents, Police, etc.
- Contributes to 'duty of care' of players, supporters and members

The Program is free for clubs to participate in and is supported by the Queensland Government. This initiative is supported by a number of Councils.

#### Hello Sunday Morning

Hello Sunday Morning is a blog about taking an objective view of drinking culture in society. The key blogger has committed to not drinking for a year and doing observational and psychological research into youth behaviour to find a viable alternative to problematic youth drinking.

This project is for young people who believe that there is a better way. It is about creating positive change to the aspects of our youth culture for future generations.

#### National Alcohol Strategy

The National Alcohol Strategy 2006-2009: Towards Safer Drinking Cultures is a plan for action to prevent and minimise alcohol-related harm to individuals, families and communities in the context of developing safer and healthy drinking cultures in Australia. The Strategy has four aims:

1. Reduce the incidence of intoxication among drinkers
2. Enhance public safety and amenity at times and in places where alcohol is consumed
3. Improve health outcomes among all individuals and communities affected by alcohol consumption
4. Facilitate safer and healthier drinking cultures by developing community understanding about the special properties of alcohol and through regulation of its availability.

These are all issues of importance to local government.

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

There are a number of courses (run by organisations such as DrugArm, Lifeline, BABI etc) available in the Redlands area that assist parents in influencing their children's attitudes to alcohol:

- how to drug proof your kid
- basic relationship courses with children
- information on specific topics relating to alcohol and other drugs and issues affecting the well-being of young people.
- preparation for Schoolies Week, drug issues, lifestyle & behaviour
- binge drinking

It should also be noted that research has found that young males are highly influenced by the women who surround them such as friends, girlfriends, housemates, siblings and mums. The slogan "I support Blokes who don't fight" has been created in the hope that girls and women will get on board to influence young

men not to respond violently in heated situations, which may be triggered by drugs or alcohol, and to emphasise the fact that it is okay to walk away.

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

People don't have to drink to experience the harm that can be associated with alcohol – crime, road trauma, assaults, family violence, property damage, noise and reductions in public perceptions of safety.

An interesting breakdown of costs was compiled in Collins & Lapsley, (2008a) that indicated that the total social costs of alcohol abuse in Australia was \$15.3 billion – refer to Appendix A.

### **Other Background and Redland Initiatives**

#### ***Redlands Community Health Profile 2008***

The *Redlands Community Health Profile 2008* provides an analysis of individual, community and environmental health information and identified key risk factors that determine the health outcomes for individuals and communities. It highlighted the role of disadvantage through the SEIFA index, in the ability to connect to resources and feel in control of their lives.

The islands had a high 28% of residents represented in the lowest 10% of the disadvantaged in Redland City. This is concerning given the remoteness from mainland support services and facilities. Note - Accordingly, the Department of Communities COMSIS data applies a high risk ranking to the islands for volatile substance misuse (persons aged 12-17).

The SEIFA is useful at highlighting pockets of disadvantage at a local level – which occur on SMBI, Dunwich, Cleveland, Thorneside and Alexandra Hills.

#### ***Redland City Council Initiatives***

Local governments have a vital role in engaging communities and in coordinating provision of a range of services, amenities and programs to reduce violence and promote well-being.

Some of the current projects underway at Redland City Council are listed below for your reference:

#### ***Young People and Public Space Survey 2009***

In 2009 Redland City Council conducted its first survey into Young People and Public Space. The primary purpose of this survey was to explore and gain insight into young people's experiences of public space and safety in Redland City.

Due to issues surrounding young people and their use of public space within the City, Council chose to undertake research to provide a steppingstone in developing a best practice framework and a range of strategies for managing public spaces in a way that promotes positive relationships between young people and other stakeholders. The outcome of this research will produce a number of important recommendations for Council's consideration.

Based on 1,966 completed survey forms, 51.7% of respondents said that they felt unsafe in public space as it was a "known area for people under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol" and 40.4% felt unsafe as it was a "known area for violence".

### Redland Youth Plaza

The Redland Youth Plaza is the biggest skate and BMX facility in South East Queensland. It is located on Old Cleveland Road, Capalaba.

The vision:

- A world-class skate and BMX facility and integrated youth space that caters to the needs of young people in the Redlands and the surrounding urban area;
- A unique space that is responsive to the local needs and best practice
- A facility that provides excellent challenges to skaters and BMX riders at all levels;
- An integrated youth space that will be designed, managed and activated by young people and local community. It will cater to young peoples' daily social needs with the capacity to accommodate larger events, such as skate and BMX demos and music festivals, when required; and
- A space with a high level of ownership by young people that is endorsed and supported by Redland City Council and the local community.

### Draft Redlands Social Infrastructure Strategy 2009

Facilities, services and networks to meet the needs of the Redlands community over the next twenty years are identified in the *Building Strong Communities: Draft Redlands Social Infrastructure Strategy 2009*.

The draft Social Infrastructure Strategy recommends a number of projects to address healthy outcomes. Your attention is brought to:

- **Youth Enterprise Centre** – create a youth space in the Capalaba Business Precinct and facilitate partnerships with community organisations to deliver targeted youth services. The centre would provide meeting and informal space to conduct youth skill development, enterprise projects and outreach to surrounding precincts with similar youth issues. This project builds on the momentum created by Council's award winning Redland Youth Plaza Initiative.
- **Redland City Lights** – promote vibrant, safe and creative nightlife opportunities for young people and the broader community across the Redlands. This initiative brings together cultural and community development expertise, with local businesses and community organisations to support evening life and a 'night economy'. Redland City Lights will cover community centres and precincts throughout the City, with late-night life focussed in the major centres of Capalaba, Cleveland and Victoria Point. The lack of entertainment options, particularly night-life, was one of the top five issues identified by local young people in the Redlands Young Adults Project 2006 and the Redlands 2030 Community Plan.

### CONCLUSION

The Community and Social Planning Group welcome the opportunity to provide this submission to the Law, Justice and Safety Committee's inquiry into alcohol-related violence in Queensland.

It is recognised that local governments have roles and responsibility for local planning and in providing some of the services, facilities and programs to encourage good health. However, good outcomes and results will only be achieved through the support of all levels of government, industry, business and communities to prevent alcohol-related harm.

This submission highlights the importance for Redland City Council to establish collaborative partnerships with a number of stakeholders to:

- assist development of initiatives that provide a range of entertainment alternatives such as the Redland City Lights and youth spaces;
- secure support and funding for capacity building and successful implementation of:
  - community education campaigns, programming, activities and other preventative measures
  - facilitating networks
- advocate for integrated service delivery to the islands;
- advocate for better data collation on alcohol-related offences to better target responses;
- engage with the community to ensure active civic participation to encourage whole-of-community responses for effective placemaking
- develop guidelines to assess and respond to extended trading hours, alcohol management, providing community amenity and ensuring community safety, health and wellbeing.

## REFERENCES

Collins, D.J. & Lapsley, H.M. (2008), *The avoidable costs of alcohol abuse in Australia and the potential benefits of effective policies to reduce the social costs of alcohol*. National Drug Strategy Monograph Series No. 70.

Collins, D.J. & Lapsley, H.M. (2008a), *The costs of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drug abuse to Australian society in 2004/05*, National Drug Strategy Monograph Series No. 64.

Good Sports Program: <http://www.goodsports.com.au/>

Hello Sunday Morning: <http://hellosundaymorning.wordpress.com/>

One Punch Can Kill: <http://www.onepunchcankill.qld.gov.au/default.htm>

Party Safe Program:

<http://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/personalSafety/situationalAdvice/partySafe.htm>

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## **CONTACT**

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## APPENDIX A

Table 1. Tangible social costs of alcohol abuse, 2004/05

		\$m
<b>Labour in the workforce</b>		
	Reduction in workforce	3,210.7
	Absenteeism	367.9
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,578.6</b>
<b>Labour in the household</b>		
	Premature death	1,423.9
	Sickness	146.9
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,570.8</b>
<b>Total paid and unpaid labour costs</b>		<b>5,149.4</b>
<b>Less consumption resources saved</b>		<b>1,611.3</b>
<b>Total net labour costs</b>		<b>3,538.0</b>
<b>Healthcare (net)</b>		
	Medical	540.7
	Hospital	662.2
	Nursing homes	401.2
	Pharmaceuticals	297.6
	Ambulances	74.8
<b>Total healthcare</b>		<b>1,976.7</b>
<b>Road accidents n.e.i.</b>		<b>2,202.0</b>
<b>Crime n.e.i.</b>		
	Police	747.1
	Criminal courts	85.8
	Prisons	141.8
	Property	67.1
	Insurance administration	14.3
	Productivity of prisoners	368.0
<b>Total crime</b>		<b>1,424.0</b>
<b>Resources used in abusive consumption</b>		<b>1,688.8</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>10,829.5</b>

Note: n.e.i. denotes not elsewhere included.

Source: Table 33, Collins and Lapsley (2008a).

**Table 2. Intangible social costs of alcohol abuse, 2004/05**

	<b>\$m</b>
Loss of life	4,135.0
Pain and suffering (road accidents)	353.6
<b>Total intangible costs</b>	<b>4,488.7</b>

Source: Table 34, Collins and Lapsley (2008a).

**Table 3. Total social costs of alcohol abuse, 2004/05**

	<b>\$m</b>
Tangible	10,829.5
Intangible	4,488.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,318.2</b>

Source: Table 35, Collins and Lapsley (2008a).