

115

From: webmaster@parliament.qld.gov.au
Sent: Thursday, 29 October 2009 3:35 PM
To: Law, Justice and Safety Committee
Subject: ONLINE SUBMISSION - Alcohol-Related Violence in Queensland

115

ONLINE SUBMISSION - Inquiry into alcohol-related violence

Name: David Spain
Company: God Coast Hospital Emergency department

Best practice harm minimisation measures:

1. Violence is more common in males with high BAC and often in context of drug use also. Many have a history of personality disorder or drug induced psychosis 2. Restriction of access to alcohol 3/4 If alcohol removed violence far less frequent

The impact of late opening hours:

5. Over 28years work experience I have seen extension of drinking hours. Violence frequency and type amongst patrons has escalated particularly in times after midnight as typical. This also occurs to prehospital police, ambulance plus hospital medical and nursing staff who attempt to manage their injuries. Stricter limits or low alcohol options if able by legislation (perhaps not serving patrons in clubs/bars with breathalyser BAC>0.08) 6. Little evident locally 7. Unknown to us 8. Opening hours being restricted would help eg 2am (I note police and ambulanc unions support this also)

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

9. Significant risk to these workers and injuries are seen not infrequently. Also major underreporting of verbal and other abuse in facilities to workers. 10. Strategies to reduce alcohol access in venues and avoid higher level intoxications

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

11. Hard - does have impact if education started at school in some cases 12. few effective 13. Debatable 14. Education often does not give sustained changes

The role of parents in influencing attitudes towards alcohol consumption:

15. They are part of the important culture. Children/teenagers often dont respect that opinion 16. Unsure

The economic cost of alcoholrelated violence:

17. It is likely major with this violence consuming considerable police, ambulance and hospital resources. Significant loss of productivity from injured patrons and workers also. occasional deaths. 18. restrict alcohol access

Any other Comments:

I have seen massive improvements in road safety by engineering changes and by legislation that enforces behaviour changes. Education often is ineffective. It is likely such gains could occur in the area of violence by reducing actual drinking times/access or actual BAC of patrons. I am unsure how to legislate to reduce access beyond hours and perhaps measuring bAC of patrons. These legislation changes may be unpopular but would overall benefit the community longer term. Staff here are sick of seeing senseless violence with deaths, lifelong scarring and maimings not uncommon. A study by PADI2 Qld crime and Misconduct outlines the demographics seen in emergency departments well.