From:

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Dear Research Director

Law Safety and justice Committee

Please find appended submission addressing the terms of reference of the Queensland Government, Law Justice and Safety Committee Inquiry into Alcohol-Related Violence following the kind invitation from Ms Barbara Stone MP and Chair of the Committee.

The material has been prepared by Neville Coventry a Volunteer with the Matthew Stanley Foundation on behalf of and with the authority of Paul Stanley.

We regret the late submission as the issues are germane to the very existence of the Foundation. Regrettably the coordination of views was not possible in the time available and was impacted upon by a range of circumstances including the significant youth oriented non violence campaign being conducted by Paul Stanley in North Queensland which spanned some ten days.

From the involvement of several of our people in the Youth Violence Task Force we are aware of the enormity of the task and the challenge for the Government to address the issues in the face of the strength of the views of many of the stakeholders.

Whilst we have missed the analysis and synthesis of views to date, we respectfully request that the contents are considered in deliberations.

As you will find there is a balanced analysis of the issues and a strong support for many of the decisions that have been made to date. You will also see that we have significant experience in taking initiatives' such as Party Safe, One Punch can Kill and the Safe drinking initiatives across Queensland.

You will also find a position that does not demonise the liquor industry, but supports partnering with the liquor related industry and numerous interested groups. We cite our own examples.

Our documentation will also provide a dynamic basis for our own internal deliberations and forums and therefore may be adjusted for any further submission.

We may indeed be able to add value in the future through targeted consultation with our youth population.

We applaud the Queensland government on taking the steps to undertake this review and offer our strong support in translating the flow on policy into action on the ground.

07/11/10000

Sincerely

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Submission

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November 2009

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1. Foreword

In September 2009 the Matthew Stanley Foundation was pleased to receive an invitation to respond to the Inquiry into Alcohol-Related Violence from Ms Barbara Stone, Chair Law Justice and Safety Committee.

The Foundation works closely with Queensland Police and the community as a committed contributor to the elimination of youth violence from our culture. The Foundation has championed related Queensland Government initiatives including the One Punch Can Kill Campaign, the Party Safe Initiative, the Safer Schoolies Initiative and the Social Marketing Campaign on Responsible Drinking.

In October 2006 the Queensland Government announced the formation of the Youth Violence Taskforce to examine ways to reduce incidents of violent behaviour among Young Queenslanders. Chaired by the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Sport Ms Judy Spence, the Youth Violence Taskforce consisted of Government representatives, and community members, including the founder of the Mathew Stanley Foundation, Paul Stanley.

There is no doubt that a great deal of the impetus for the Task Force came from the murder of Paul's son, Matthew. The Task Force Report states:

After the tragic death of teenager Matthew Stanley following a party in September 2006, the Queensland Government announced the formation of the Youth Violence Taskforce. Over 12 months the Youth Violence Taskforce examined ways to reduce incidents of violent behaviour amongst young Queenslanders and report back to Queensland Government.

The horrendous and violent theft of Matthew's life triggered an outpouring of grief in Matthew's local community and beyond. The community and Matthew's family demanded action and in the face of the horror that befell Paul and Kay Stanley and their surviving son, Nic, the Stanley family drew together the support of a number of good people and established the Matthew Stanley Foundation.

The Foundation continues to support the recommendations of the Task Force and contributes to the Ministerial Advisory Council on Youth Violence. The Foundation expects that the Law Justice and Safety Committee will draw information from that group and collaborate in the response to this important issue, particularly in relation to violence prevention, education and measures to address alcohol related at risk behaviour.

Whist the focus of the Foundation centers on youth the Foundation is clear that what happens with adults sets norms and models in place for young people on their way to adulthood. We therefore advocate a whole systems approach.

For more than a decade, research has been showing that alcohol affects an adolescent brain differently from an adult brain. During adolescence, alcohol use can damage the area responsible for logic, reasoning, self-regulation and judgment, as well as affecting an area of the brain related to learning and memory. It follows that there is the potential for this damage to impact on a young person's thinking, functioning and behaviour. Without educating young people to the danger of long-term and irreversible damage, we

would be leaving our younger citizens in the hands of those who either encourage under age or adolescent drinking or turn a blind eye. "We did it", doesn't cut it! Perhaps some of us did, but let us look at what we have created, and indeed, the damage, trauma and lives lost.

Having interaction with all levels and political persuasion of motivated elected representatives the Foundation suggests that a bipartisan approach be adopted to address the distressing connection between violence and alcohol.

The Foundation also recommends that when decision makers espouse awareness that alcohol-related violence has significant social and economic costs, that they do so only after hearing first hand what it means to have lost a loved one to alcohol related violence or to have a family member traumatised for life as a consequence of violence. Disfiguration from glassing is more than a surface wound. We also believe that where members of the judiciary make judgments such as sentencing on issues relating to alcohol related violence, that they would come closer to matching community expectations if in their early professional training they had been exposed to something more than a victim statement. The printed word is insufficient...ask any victim.

If we are guilty of bias it will be to take a victim orientation and to focus our energies on violence in the youth demographic. We do however attempt to look to the larger picture to unravel causes and cures. We respect that government decisions must be evidence based, but we implore the government that data adequately represents the value of qualitative and subjective domain. The community at large looks for evidence that this has in fact occurred. Our response to Section 3.6 stresses why we are so strong on this point.

We therefore welcome the Queensland-wide Parliamentary Inquiry into alcohol-related violence and its ramifications. We also commend the commitment to a determined effort to improve public safety throughout the state.

We note and endorse the Premier's reference to the need to restore respect in our youth population and add something two additional R's (Rights and Responsibilities). It is our contention that respect for others must be grounded in respect for the self. Self respect is therefore a prerequisite to having fun without self destruction and damage to others, the environment and property. We also have concern about the self centred way that the "Rights" are often proffered in our community. If we accept that all people have a right to peaceful existence we will understand that the rights of the self must work hand in hand with a respect for the rights of others. The extension of this understanding is embodied in the Queensland Criminal Offences Victims Act and the recent enhancements to this Act. It follows that respect can be felt but "Responsibility" has to be delivered if we are to see Rights, Respect and Responsibility translate in to observable and morally desirable behaviour. Together they offer the social DNA for safe communities.

Whilst a fair share of our input is about what government bodies and other groups are doing and what they can do to silence the violence and address the link with alcohol we see personal responsibility as the ultimate point of accountability. Our recommendations are grounded in the above values.

2. Executive Summary

The Matthew Stanley Foundation is pleased to submit a response to the Inquiry into Alcohol-Related Violence as enacted by the Law, Justice and Safety Committee pursuant to a referral from the Legislative Assembly dated 4 August 2009.

The Inquiry seeks to inquire and report on alcohol related violence in Queensland with a focus on community safety and preventative measures to reduce the levels of alcohol related violence, including its ramifications.

The Matthew Stanley Foundation makes specific recommendations with regards to:

- Best practice harm minimisation measures
 - o The Insidious Effect of Alcohol;
 - o Culture Change;
 - o Partnering;
 - o The Link with Sport and Sporting Events;
 - o Responsible Service of Alcohol;
 - o Glassing;
 - o Sanctions and Support Systems;
 - o Early Intervention and Harm Minimisation; and
 - o GO Vodka tube ban.
- The impact of late opening hours
 - Opening Hours;
 - o Transport Issues; and
 - o Partnering Solutions.
- Flow-on issues for emergency service workers, police, and frontline health workers
 - o Moral Responsibility and Community Cost;
 - o Solutions: and
 - o Benefits of Action.
- Education campaigns and their role in cultivating effective social change in terms of community attitudes to alcohol consumption
 - Youth Violence Task Force recommendations;
 - o Cultural and Linguistic Differences;
 - Matthew Stanley Foundation Spreading the Message; and
 - o Specific Groups.
- The role of parents in influencing attitudes towards alcohol Consumption
 - Party Safe;
 - Legislation on Secondary Supply of Alcohol to Young People;
 - o Role of Media;

- o Facing the Truth;
- o Early Intervention Approaches;
- o At Risk Youths; and
- Under Age Drinking A Template for Community Engagement.
- · The economic cost of alcohol related violence
 - Australian Figures;
 - o A Word of Caution in ascribing cost estimates A Victim Perspective; and
 - o Sharing Responsibility.

The Matthew Stanley Foundation response to the Inquiry into Alcohol-Related Violence provides discussion and recommendations on issues of alcohol, violence and their relationship based on the research and experience of the Foundation. Whilst the main focus has been on youth related issues the Foundation does not treat them in isolation from the larger system in which the issues reside.

3. Response to Inquiry Questions

3.1 Best practice harm minimisation measures

The Matthew Stanley Foundation suggests that in order to address the issues and risks associated with consumption of a product that by definition is toxic, our society and its institutions must accept a moral responsibility for the consequences. If we regard the social consumption of alcohol as acceptable, whilst being aware of the adverse and sometimes fatal consequences of excessive consumption then we must find ways to encourage moderation and promote safety in the settings in which consumption takes place.

This very inquiry demonstrates awareness that the ways in which intoxication is managed determines the levels of alcohol-related disorder, violence and property damage.

The Insidious Effect of Alcohol

The Queensland Department of Education initiative Act Smart Be Safe provides a reminder of the insidious effect of alcohol:

- * Alcohol use directly affects cognitive (thinking) and physical function.
- * Harmful alcohol use can reduce self-control and the ability to process information and assess risks.
- * Harmful alcohol use can increase emotions and impulsivity and make some young people more likely to resort to violence in confrontation.
- * Reduced physical control and ability to recognise early warning signs can make some young people easy targets.
- * Individual and social beliefs about the effects of alcohol (e.g. increased confidence, increased aggression) means that alcohol may be consumed as preparation for involvement in violence.
- Alcohol and violence is often a central part of youth gang culture.

Culture Change

Confronted with the damage of the unbridled use of alcohol we must look to a culture where drunkenness, intoxication and violence are not only seen as unacceptable but shunned. Noting the complex relationship between alcohol, violence and cultural norms we need to adopt strategies that impact on the total system as well as addressing specific issues.

The role of opening hours will be addressed in the next section and further recommendations will be made through the document.

Partnering

If there is one process that in our view must head the list of approaches it is partnering. Two Queensland examples exist with the Valley Liquor Accord^{vii} and the Matthew Stanley Foundation. Both operate differently but similarly engage members from the local business community, local councils, police, government departments and other community organisations. The Matthew Stanley Foundation operates through a considered range of specific partnerships such as the arrangement between the Matthew Stanley Foundation

and the Carina Leagues Club in the production of an educational DVD and the emerging relationship with McGuires, yielding valuable safety education measures for patrons. It makes more sense to engage the organisations who take stock and draw a line in the sand to ensure that their venues do not become at risk environments and that the products merchandised do not contribute to at risk behaviour including binge drinking, alcohol loading (prior to a night out) and under age drinking.

Our attitude that we can go further by working together with vendors and other stakeholders from the liquor and hospitality industry is consistent with the intent of the Queensland Government, which indicates "...the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation will work with licensees and local communities to enhance and extend voluntary participation in the development and management of Liquor Accords". Viii

Liquor accords are voluntary industry-based partnerships working in local communities to introduce practical solutions to liquor-related problems. They reach agreements on ways to improve the operation of licensed venues so that entertainment venues and precincts are safe and enjoyable.^{ix}

Where a group such as the Foundation does not operate another option is to establish and Alcohol Reference Group which might do such things as:

- Identify youth violence and alcohol related issues in the local community;
- Develop youth violence prevention plans with local agencies, organizations and communities;
- Develop and improve links within and between government and non-government agencies;
- Facilitate community education programs;
- Facilitate training of workers and specialist staff;
- Facilitate capacity building in communities; and
- Develop, implement and evaluate projects to reduce violence and alcohol consumption.

Regardless of the approach we believe that given the complexity of the link between alcohol and violence the encouragement of partnering is vital.

The Link with Sport and Sporting Events

The Matthew Stanley Foundation has a concern about the way some marketing campaigns manoeuvre to craft a link between alcohol, sporting events and the Australian identity and then fall silent when violence occurs. Put bluntly the One Punch Can Kill Message also applies in the last three minutes of the State of Origin. What provokes the concern of the Foundation is not simply the silence on violence from an industry that generates income from a sport but the number of media commentators who either excuse violence as tribal behaviour or applaud offences that on the street would constitute assault. It is of course double edged as sport does a lot to provide youths with a focus and an environment in which to explore fitness principles, team behaviours and learn positive life skills. On the positive side the Foundation applauds those producers, marketers, retailers and other vendors who put health goals alongside of profit aspirations as a demonstrated commitment to corporate responsibility.

A ray of hope can be found with the Queensland Health partnership with the Liquor Licensing Division of Treasury and the Good Sports Program, an initiative of the Australian Drug Foundation.* Our view is that the model which aims to shift the culture of smaller sporting clubs from being alcohol focused to a family entertainment focus could be encouraged with major sporting groups and their governing bodies. We argue that if the Matthew Stanley Foundation, which is community funded can sponsor a local rugby team then encouragement of the "good sports" orientation could be built into the contract of government support to sporting teams and sporting bodies.

We call upon media outlets such as radio stations with dedicated sporting programs to lend their weight to these efforts. Perhaps we need an award for the most responsible sport sponsored prevention and harm minimisation program, with a name that suggests the positive i.e. the "Be a Good Sport' media award."

If the sponsorship of sports teams by liquor related companies is deemed acceptable we must manage the message. In the instance of national teams we need to ensure that alcohol consumption is not promoted as the Australian way or as the thing that winners do in our culture. It is noted that along with the recent promotion of on line betting companies during sporting events has usually been accompanied by a warning that if you are going to bet, do it responsibly. The promotion of a product that produces toxic effects on the body and behavioural changes should be balanced by at least equal coverage of relevant safety warnings. We have no desire to demonise alcohol but the difference in treatment between gambling and alcohol and tobacco and alcohol is unacceptable.

Responsible Service of Alcohol.

In this section we focus on the interaction between vendors and patrons. We applied recent the reforms to the Qld Liquor Bill. The mandatory training of all staff involved in the service and supply of liquor and the requirement that they possess a current certificate in Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) within 30 days of commencing employment is a positive move. We also support the provision that demands that volunteers serving alcohol are supervised by a RSA-trained individual. Additional legislative provisions that ban the advertising of tricky drink promotions aimed at on-premise consumption should also to be applieded.

We have lent our weight to the government's social marketing campaign on responsible drinking, addressing industry and community concerns about patron behaviour on licensed premises and binge drinking. We are now also seeing strong support for this type of activity. We note that in an emerging partnership with McGuires Hotels that even a receptionist was motivated to become trained in the responsible service of alcohol.

Glassing

The scars from many forms of violence often sustain within, long after their physical visibility disappears. Sadly however with glassing, the disfigurement and where present, the loss of sight is there for all, who still have sight to see. We defer to the psychologists and researchers amongst at the disposal of the Inquiry to examine what type of self concept resides in the individual who would inflict such callous harm on another human being.

The Mathew Stanley Foundation acknowledges the State Government intention to crack down on the use of glass in problem venues across the state in a bid to improve public safety and reduce alcohol-fuelled violence. In addition we support the promise of the Premier to replace glass with plastic or similar cups by the end of the year.

The Foundation sees the views proffered by some commentators, that the focus should be on addressing management standards across the industry rather than removing glass is in our view severely blinkered. Yes, improving management standards is important but in addition this weapon must be removed whilst we set about changing cultural trends that include this terribly harmful behaviour and its precursor, the excessive consumption of alcohol. The introduction of metal detectors in some night spots is a related positive move.

The government could however go further to prevent spirit and full alcohol beer sales after midnight.

Sanctions and Support Systems

In order to shift a norm, it is necessary to ensure that enforcement officers are backed by appropriate sanctions to address the behaviours that threaten our right to a safe and secure community. It is equally important to reward desirable behaviour.

If we are to enculture respect for the self and others in our society we also must seek to "catch" those who demonstrate respect and reward them. Criminologists talk about the anticipatory benefits effect which encourages change before the change becomes the norm. Put another way, young people seeing the connection benefits enjoyed by a few youths who utilize a particular space dedicated to their use may be motivated to use that space before it becomes common place. Journalist rewards for responsible reporting form an example in the broader system. Will we give good news stories to journalists that prey on selected negative events or those who help spread the word about positive behaviours from our youths?

That said we will not engender respect in our youths if we are seen to be going soft on offensive and violent behaviour. The Matthew Stanley Foundation supports proposals to impose court orders on people found guilty of alcohol related offences such as urinating in public places, refusing to leave licensed premises and other public nuisance related offences. Such court orders could impose appropriate restrictions such as limiting the alcohol level allowable or the actual consumption of alcohol.

We however go further than calls for court orders to ban people from specific precincts such as Fortitude Valley or Surfers Paradise. Our proposition is that a person considered at risk in one location cannot be considered risk free in another licensed venue. We do however support the calls for an ID scanner system. Again we add a rider that such a tool should be simultaneously available to suburban locations and other areas such as country locations so that we can ensure that patrons refused entry at one venue simply do not simply move onto another licensed location. Our proposition is that it is simply too easy and indeed dangerous for youths to say move from Brisbane, Cairns or Townsville night spots to outer areas.

With explicit violence we see common assault as warranting a criminal conviction with mandatory minimum sentences for glass or other weapon assaults, with built in barring from alcohol after the sentence has been served. Our position is more that simply getting people off the street, it also embraces the desire for long-term behavioural solutions. Such sentences must therefore have a built in re-education requirement, to be completely fulfilled prior to the offender ever being permitted to re-enter a licensed location.

The Matthew Stanley Foundation is also clear that where the death of a victim has been caused by deliberate violence, the perpetrator should be tried for homicide, whether alcohol was present or not present. In our society life must be considered sacrosanct and defences based on provocation arguments should not be tenable in our criminal justice system. The One Punch Can Kill campaign can only be taken seriously if this is understood. The issue of people standing by and even provoking the violence must be considered accessories and charged as such.

It is our view that the legal system must impose mandatory minimum sentences for serious assaults against police, other emergency service personnel and health workers. The specifics are given in 3.3. We also address the issue of violence associated with a mental health condition and further discuss violence and emergency services workers in 3.3.

Early Intervention and Harm Minimisation

Harm minimisation approaches must also consider those at risk individuals that may be saved from a destructive path by early intervention. In this context we are staunch supporters of the CRYPAR (Coordinated Response to Young People At Risk) approach.* CRYPAR is a referral service that allows police officers in the field to refer young people (aged 6 to 25) to an agency that can assist them with their problem. All that is required is the persons consent, and the referral form is later faxed to the appropriate agency. All agencies currently involved in CRYPAR have agreed to respond within 48 hours. CRYPAR has the ability to be implemented in regional 'hot spots' as required when using the preferred best practice model to ensure support and consistency in providing 'at risk' youth with strong referral pathways. XII We advocate strong ongoing government support for this program.

GO Vodka tube ban

The Mathew Stanley Foundation notes that the Minister responsible for Liquor and Gaming, Peter Lawlor MP, has prohibited the sale of the alcohol based "GO Vodka" tubes in Queensland under the Ministerial banning power of undesirable products. The Foundation applauds this move and the associated fines. The Youth Violence Task Force was originally alerted to similar products that were retailed outside of Australia and via the internet. The Foundation notes the potential for concealment of such products and the trendy vibe that was associated with the advertisements. Clearly there is also the need to implement measures to ensure that such products cannot be purchased via the internet and sequestered into the hands of under age users or users that wish to indulge in the product where alcohol is banned.

3.2 The impact of late opening hours

Opening Hours

Our response to the matter of opening hours is informed by the experiences of our youth population and the plethora of studies across the world have shown that the level of alcohol-related violence is at its highest late at night, and corresponds with bar and nightclub closing times (Australia, xiii Norway, xiv England and Wales.xv)

The notion of having a vibrant night life in our State can only be acceptable where:

- · excesses are not the norm,
- community safety is a priority, and
- Licensing laws do not place business competition ahead of public health and safety.

We see virtual 24 hour trading as inconsistent with these conditions and we support the 2008 changes to the Liquor Act which included a new permit system for licensed venues trading between midnight and 5am and facilitated a crackdown on pubs and clubs which fail to address patron safety. The Foundation further notes that the Liquor and Other Acts Amendment Act, prioritises harm minimisation and applauds the moratorium on all applications for extended hours between 12am and 5am, to and remain for 12 months pending the outcomes of the Law Justice and Safety Committee Inquiry into Alcohol related Violence.

We are supportive of calls to limit trading to 2.00 am for city locations and would support a move to limit the level of alcohol merchandised after 12.00. It is hard to see how additional imbibing after 12.00 adds value to the patron's experience. We advocate a 12.00 closure for the suburbs as we see no necessity to establish suburban areas as night spots that divert emergency resources away from other needs. Such a move would also bring cost and stress savings with transport facilities, police and emergency personnel.

We add a concern regarding the way dense clustering of venues facilitates "preloading" in one venue before patrons move on to another venue already intoxicated. Our concern is not so much with clustering as it is with practice of preloading at one venue and moving on to another. We question whether the merchandising of "shots" accompanied by rapid consumption is consistent with legislation pertaining to the responsible service of alcohol.

Transport Issues

The Matthew Stanley Foundation is aware that managing the risks linked to one part of a system may lead to unintended consequences in other parts of the system. The unintended adverse consequences of poor late night transport services coupled with people on the street, can include increased drink and drug affected driving, and more individuals walking home and being vulnerable to both assaults and accidents. These dangers increase when people are intoxicated.

The Foundation notes the rapid movement of people from Suncorp and The Gabba in relation to large sporting events and sees a scaled level of service relating to peak night life times as an equally valid demand on public transport. The issues are serious enough to warrant consideration of these services on a free basis. Many service clubs provide free

transport and we suggest that a pooling of resources from lucrative night spots could fund similar services. In Many (Sydney, NSW) a service was launched in 2004 as part of the Manly Safe Summer Campaign. The service is free and has been extended.

These recommendations require cooperation and partnering between transport providers, local government, police, bar and nightclub owners to fund bus services. Risk management measures associated with transport may include the installation of cameras in vehicles, radio links between drivers and police. Some modification of vehicles may also need to be built in to protect customers and drivers. It would also be necessary to review scheduling to ensure that the problem was not simply displaced to other areas where connecting transport was not available. Additional measures such as the availability of security personnel, effective street lighting CCTV cameras, queuing strategies would assist the safe movement of nightlife patrons and lend towards introducing a different culture into city and country entertainment precincts.

Our experience with young people suggests that attention also needs to be given to encouraging people to travel home accompanied by friends rather than alone and to ensure that they retain enough money to pay for transport home after an outing at a night spot. Measures such as pre-paid taxi vouchers purchasable from train and bus depots and Newsagents are a consideration.

Partnering Solutions

In all the matters pertaining to opening hours the factor that is constant in how we must move is partnering. In the Redlands the Foundation has taken engagement a step that we believe will create a model for others to follow.

In two examples the McGuire's, owners of the Alexandra Hills Hotel and have bought the Bayside licences to the "Welcome to Our World" DVD by Adair Donaldson. The DVD's will be available for all schools and community organisations to use.

The McGuires have also indicated significant interested in promoting the One Punch Can Kill and the Cool Down, Walk Away message, throughout their hotels and they have indicated their willingness to have staff and wear associated merchandise. They will also place and billboards in their premises to promote these messages.

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

Moral Responsibility and Community Cost

A morally responsible society cannot condone a disregard for authority and a situation where the people we call upon to service community safety suffer alcohol-related abuse and injury in the course of their duty.

Research demonstrates that violence can affect the health of communities. It can increase health care costs, decrease property values, and disrupt social services.** The impact on disruption of emergency services in terms of cost and availability to service the community is an important concern.

Solutions

We consider that the moral intelligence of a community is in part contingent on respect for official authority figures and the welfare of these people must be protected by the judiciary. The assault of public officials such as Police or Ambulance Officers must in our view warrant a mandatory minimum three to six month with a five year sentence, for repeat offenders. To those who raise the concern about removing the discretion of the judiciary it is pointed out that the option of imposing a more sever sentence remains discretionary and should be applied with the increasing severity of the offence.

We also advocate that such offences yield an equivalent sanction whether a paramedic, health worker or police officer.

We also believe that the government must place a priority on the training, support and safety measures for frontline workers such as ambulance officers and police and emergency health personnel who, on a daily basis, deal with alcohol and drug affected individuals.

We note that in some jurisdictions outside of Queensland, ambulance dispatch centres have caution notes attached to at risk addresses. Such lists clearly would need to be reviewed regularly for privacy purposes. To those who may have concern about civil liberties, we see the sanctity of life and protection from violence as above these concerns.

The continual refinement of communication systems between emergency service workers, hospitals and police is vital, as is the option of calling a mental health worker, where the violence or the threat of violence is known to relate to mental health issues. Training that helps police and emergency service workers make a preliminary assessment of the mental state of individuals is also important.

Benefits of Action

By reducing unnecessary pressure on our emergency service workers and our emergency departments we will fulfil an essential duty of care for these workers whilst reducing the cost of the consequence of irresponsible consumption of alcohol.

The response time of emergency service personnel can mean the difference between life and death and most certainly in the event of violence. As we correctly demand vigilance in the reduction of response times, we must also reduce diversions such as the need to negotiate through alcohol and drug induced situations and at times the grossly inappropriate behaviour of crowds.

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

The Mathew Stanley Foundation is clear that drinking and the potentially devastating effects of alcohol as discussed in 3.6 are an aspect of the broader social milieu in our society. We therefore see education programs important and believe that those that lead to action must be sustained.

Youth Violence Task Force Recommendations

The Matthew Stanley Foundation endorses the relevant Youth Violence Task Force recommendations:

Recommendation 2 Queensland Government fund and deliver a highly visible community education and social marketing campaign over the next 5-10 years, specifically targeting young people and their parents in purpose built and wide ranging flexible delivery formats, with a view to creating and maintaining a safe drinking culture.

Recommendation 3 Sources for revenue to deliver education campaigns are investigated including from the liquor and hospitality industry.

Recommendation 4 Community based education programs should be funded for delivery across Queensland communities with a view to engaging youth, particularly school leavers, in the impact and effect of high risk drinking practices, including the dangers of high alcohol volume products.

Cultural and Linguistic Differences

The Mathew Stanley Foundation also endorses the Task Force support for programs that reach people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Due to our partnering with Crime Stoppers and Queensland Police we see the power of engaging ethnic community leaders and their communities. We acknowledge the translations of Crime Stopper material that we see in Metropolitan South and believe this should be replicated with alcohol-violence related material such as the Party Safe package and the One Punch Can Kill message. Ethnic cinemas and media outlets should also be engaged in this process.

Matthew Stanley Foundation – Spreading the Message

The Task Force also identified that young people significantly underestimate the harm that can arise from even one act of violence. It was also identified that young people lacked the ability to manage conflict without violence, and may lack the peer support to be able to walk away from potentially violent situations. The Matthew Stanley Foundation has responded to such observations with an intensive program of presentations conducted in conjunction with schools and police. At the time of preparing this response Paul; Stanley was in the final stage of an extended series of presentations in North Queensland.

The below comment from the Senior Community Crime Prevention Officer Mackay District Office is indicative of the impact of presentation sessions delivered by Paul Stanley.

In conjunction with Qld Police officers and Qld Ambulance officers across the Mackay District we addressed over 3200 students in 9 high schools. The impact on students, teachers, police and ambulance officers was overpowering. In my extensive involvement in working with youth, (20 years+) I have never seen youth so engaged in a presentation. Comments from Police, Ambulance officers and teachers that attended request involvement in any further campaigns in the future and wholeheartedly support the message and your delivery of it.*

A snapshot of the local student centred evaluation as presented on our web site provides will show that the messages delivered by Paul are being heard. Follow up and reinforcement at the local level with the possible inclusion of project work will ensure that the learning influences attitude development and behavioural change in local communities.

A useful nexus in the education domain came from the partnership between Crime Stoppers, Queensland Police, Emergency Services and the Matthew Stanley Foundation. A number of projects were addressing youth violence initiated as part of the 2009 Crime Stoppers Youth Challenge with the winners to be honoured at Parliament House this month.*

The development of an educational DVD which is nearing completion will add significant value to the Matthew Stanley battery of delivery methods and those of other groups, committed to like purposes. With huge support from the Government, Private Sector and funding from Carina Leagues Club the result will further demonstrate the will of good people and the power of partnering.

Specific Groups

Government driven programs targeting groups with specific needs are also important. The impact of violence and alcohol on young women warrants mention in this context with the disproportionately negative impact alcohol has on female bodies and because of the increased risks young women may be exposed to when intoxicated. The Queensland Health, Young Women and Alcohol Campaign have been important contributors to the danger of excess drinking for young women. The campaign encourages young women aged 18 to 22 years to change harmful alcohol consumption practices. Key campaign messages are "Make up your own mind about drinking" and "It feels good to say no when you want to say no". **

The Foundation was also impressed by the Safe Youth – Safe Communities initiative which was presented to the Taskforce by the Office for Youth, Department of Communities. The initiative seeks to implement a project that holistically responds to youth violence in the Logan/Ipswich corridor. The target age is 10-17 years and is culturally appropriate to engage Pacific Islander young people as well as other cultures in the area. Multicultural Football tournaments also provide a fertile ground for educational and preventative activities.

3.5 The role of parents in influencing attitudes towards alcohol consumption

Confronted with research that that children's anti-social behaviours can be traced along a trajectory beginning in pre-school years, it is important to ensure that our prevention repertoire includes strategies to target the earlier stages of children's lives, before alcohol enters that continuum. Elecause our society includes parents who are not aware of the dangers and others that foolishly turn a blind eye to underage drinking or sadly don't care, our role in relation to parents must have a number of threads. We explore existing and possible strategies including those that focus on the positive and others that are more aversive in style.

Party Safe

The Foundation notes that community forums conducted under the auspices of Safe Youth Parties Taskforce led the members to express concern over a lack of parental responsibility for children's behaviour and the consumption of alcohol at youth parties. **xiiiii The report drew attention to the general lack of supervision by a responsible person at many parties and reported that parties were becoming out-of control, with flow on consequences to young people who are ill equipped physiologically or behaviourally to handle the consequences. Importantly the Youth Parties Taskforce identified that young people themselves expressed the need for increased supervision by parents at parties.

Since its inception the Matthew Stanley Foundation has diligently supported the Queensland Police Service Party Safe initiative to educate young people about how to avoid potentially dangerous situations and make parents and teenagers aware of possible risks at parties and what they can do to make them safer. Our activities are in this vein consistent with the Recommendation 7 from the Youth Violence Task Force. The Foundations efforts covering many parts of Queensland have featured media engagements, presentations and distribution of the Party Safe material at public events. Notably the bands of youths that support the Foundation were well received by business and the community in the Redlands as they visited shops and other businesses in the Redlands area to distribute the material and spread awareness.

Legislation on Secondary Supply of Alcohol to Young People

The Foundation is aware that it is not currently an offence for parents to supply their children with alcohol on private property or for young people to consume alcohol on private property. Notwithstanding this point the seizure of alcohol by police from underage youths associated with schoolies suggests that despite significant awareness campaigns about the potential damage of alcohol to young people, there are parents who continue to sanction large quantities of alcohol in their possession and in certain instances actively facilitate this possibility.

The Matthew Stanley Foundation therefore supports Recommendation 1 of the Youth Violence Task force in its call for the Queensland Government to revisit the legislative environment in relation to the secondary supply of alcohol to young people by adults.

Drawing on numerous reports and research studies The Task Force identified that the main source of alcohol for minors parent and/or older siblings and/or older friends.

In its deliberations the Taskforce sought to balance the rights of responsible parents to provide their underage teenagers with an alcoholic beverage in small quantities at a supervised family event with the ability to protect minors from the harm associated with excessive alcohol consumption seemingly enabled by a minority of irresponsible parents. Adopting a holistic perspective the Taskforce recommended an amendment to the Act which makes it an offence to recklessly supply alcohol to minors.

Role of the Media

Throughout this document we have referenced the role of media and advertising both in its potential to deliver positive messages and the need for legislation to impact on manipulative messages which can damage the combined efforts of people serious about reducing the incidence of alcohol related violence. It is worth noting a particular response the international level with the Economic Union, Audiovisual Media Services Directive stipulating that commercial communications for alcoholic beverages on television and in other audiovisual services "shall not be aimed specifically at minors and shall not encourage immoderate consumption of such beverages". The directive also covers on-demand audiovisual media services, including those available on the internet. **XiV** This latter point may assist us to address unacceptable on-line marketing from outside of our shores as referenced in 3.1 (GO Vodka Tube ban).

Facing the Truth

Recognising that despite our best efforts and in no way condoning underage drinking we need to face the reality that it occurs and where possible we need to limit consumption and manage the behaviour the behaviour of those under age people lured into the alcohol pathway. Facing the truth on means continued vigilance in enforcing the Liquor Act to prevent and detect possible breaches by minors and culpable adults and sustaining highly visible compliance operations.

Restricting alcohol at local sporting activities or events can also assist in ensuring that underage youths do not fly under radar and procure alcohol because of less stringent supervision. Local businesses can also play a role by sponsoring alcohol free events and scheduling the events for the times, days, and locations that have historically been the most problematic. The Good Sport initiative moves some way towards shifting the focus at sporting events from alcohol to family (See - The Link with Sport and Sporting Events in 3.1).

The strategies can be maximised by linking with Government sponsored programs such as the One Punch Can Kill Campaign and the Safer Schoolies Initiative and which can educate young people about the devastation that can come from violence and how this adversely affects their peers. A powerful protection must be for an underage person to have the confidence to say no, that's not cool when confronted with the opportunity to consume alcohol.

Early Intervention Approaches

Whilst we must impact on the people in the environment where our young people reside and grow we can also assist with programs that build the resilience of young people. This will increase the chances that more adolescents will not only survive but will survive in a way that can only be possible if their developing brain is not exposed to alcohol.

Chic's Chat^{xxx} is an example of a program within the Matthew Stanley group with a broader agenda that will engage the underage demographic and their mums. Considerations are underway to extend the reach of the Foundation below the current age group of 12-16.

The resources from a range of groups have application in the quest to curb the possibility of underage drinking. By way of a few examples the recent Children's Safety Package distributed to Schools under the auspices of Children's Safety Australia of helps build the skills that allow young people to make safety based choices and say no to those, who would steal that option. The sister organisation Personal Safety Australia also offers a range of training opportunities for adults interested in developing protective behaviours. The Education Department also provides useful links for students, teachers, school leaders and parents from its Act Smart Be Safexxii initiative. Kids Help Linexxviii provides support to children whist Safety Housexxix not only provides sanctuary for children in safe settings but engages in a range of community awareness activities.

A number of programs of interest have also been undertaken around Australia^{xxx} using a developmental or early intervention approaches approach to the prevention of crime, and thereby violence. Utilising a range of approaches from Pre School initiatives, developmental approaches aim to intervene early, especially at critical points, to minimise the risks and maximise the protections so that the chances of a successful transition to adulthood are increased. These approaches are quite different to addressing the problem of crime by a focus on law enforcement and punishment through strategies such as increasing police numbers and powers to intervene and legislating for harsher sentences. Our position is that youths will have a greater chance of successfully managing this transition if the predisposing factors in alcohol abuse and violence have been addressed during earlier developmental stages.

At Risk Youths

Where young people emerge from their early life experience with dysfunctional behaviour patterns or present as at risk youths, specific strategies apply. Essentially this is the realm of professionals trained and qualified for the task. In the below "Template for Community Engagement" we stress the importance of identification of such resources and the importance of established referral processes.

Our Foundation regards CRYPAR (See also Section 1) as particularly valuable with young people who do not have traditional support networks and subsequently begin committing crimes or are considered at risk, but not yet at the stage of being considered a repeat offender. In these programs a young person's problems can be addressed without entering the dangerous area of self fulfilling labelling and the regrettable badges of honour, amongst offenders that can be a by product of entering the Juvenile Justice system. Young people/families can have very diverse needs and may need the assistance of a number of

specialized services. The Safe Youth – Safe Communities initiative^{xxxi} as referenced in 3.4 (Specific Groups) is worthy of consideration.

Under Age Drinking - A Template for Community Engagement

At the Matthew Stanley Foundation we have learned to implement youth oriented violence prevention projects as they are designed, typically with a driver or product champion from the target demographic. Our observation is that with the availability of mentors from all manner of backgrounds, the predominantly youth population is developing an impressive bank of project skills and leadership qualities. What better way to secure the future than to work with future leaders. As we see what they do we should correct ourselves and talk about these young people as the leaders of today taking charge of tomorrow.

Drawing on our experience we see ourselves in a position to offer our first draft of a 9 stage template for other groups wanting to address the issue of underage drinking. In offering this option we certainly don't see ourselves as the font of the perfect way but offer the thoughts simply as a place to start. Some of course will be well ahead of this agenda. Also people who draw on this information should not see it as a prescribed linear sequence and should establish their own roadmaps — which of course offer different starting points and different routes to the same location — health and safety for young Australians.

Stage 1. Formation of coalitions of interest

Given the clear evidence about the importance of preventing underage drinking it has to be asked, why communities are not forming coalitions to address this scourge. Our observation is that despite a common commitment, differences in orientation or the absence of a dedicated coordinator prevent people from coming together and building coordinated action plans. The irony is that when differences are brought together under a common goal the differences have a transformative capacity. The diverse range of participants in the Matthew Stanley Foundation makes it possible to look through different lens and utilise different communication mediums for the respective stakeholders.

At a risk of stretching police crime prevention officers further, they are well positioned to facilitate or at least initiate the activity, working off a road map similar to this draft template. These officers are highly regarded in communities and maintain links with various organisations and stakeholders.

In pulling such a group together it may be useful to ask:

- What is our community (parents, police, peers, community groups, licensed venues etc) doing to address underage drinking?
- Which agencies are involved with this issue? Are they working in a cooperative way?
- Are there partnering arrangements to address the issue of underage drinking and evidence of "on the street" action.
- Is there evidence that any activities are particularly effective?
- What is not working, and why?

- If there are no existing partnering arrangements, who would be the best agencies, organizations, groups, or individuals to form an action group? Who would be the logical driver/ coordinator of such a coalition?
- What resources are available from government and other agencies and what campaigns are in place that may assist local initiatives?

Such an action group may of course not limit themselves to the issue of underage drinking and have a broader community safety agenda. In our own context we believe that by sticking "close to our knitting" we have sewn the seeds of sustainability. The irony is that ideally we would prefer to not have a reason to exist.

Stage 2. Establish a means of communication

The whole agenda is about impacting on our culture and that simply won't happen without communication that engages different people in different ways. Some want pieces of paper whilst others prefer text messages and Facebook.

Existing publications produced by stakeholders such as the Community Crime Bulletins distributed by police Crime Prevention Officers and youth magazines, blogs and the like provide further vehicles. We are also fortunate in the Redlands that we have good support from local print and radio media.

Importantly this can grow along with the evolution of the coalition. The Matthew Stanley Foundation never set out to undertake an action learning project, or become a learning organisation but it has made a good fist of learning by doing.

The communication process is perhaps one of the most important areas in which young people can be engaged and offers possibly their greatest need – the need to feel connected.

As an unintended and wonderfully positive consequence we have found is that by embracing the use modern communication tools for a social good we are nullifying the possibility of these tools being used for such socially destructive behaviours such as cyber bullying or distribution of inappropriate images.

Stage 3. Undertake an analysis of local data, from existing data bases including, youth forums police crime figures and other government resources.

As indicated in the next step the overall alcohol issue in the community is germane to the reduction of underage drinking. This may start as simply as talking to ones local authority or local crime prevention people who will be able to advise on the location of this type of information or as advanced as hiring a specialist to undertake a focussed community safety audit. Government web sites also offer useful information with a number of locations mentioned in this document. Why not talk to your local Tafe or University Campus. Your need could be someone's learning project.

Stage 4. Aim to reduce the Communities overall alcohol consumption and reduce the alcohol norm in the community

It is clear that by reducing the community's overall alcohol consumption we will in turn reduce underage access to alcohol and minimise the allure of alcohol. Paul Stanley often reminds people that a good place to start is obviously 100 years ago, but perhaps by changing the community norms about drinking we will begin the process of establishing perceivable gains. Again this is not about being all things to all people, but being aware and linking with those who may be pursuing this aim and doing a spot of recruiting along the way.

Stage 5. Identify available sanctions and ensure that both legal and administrative sanctions are fully utilised.

Here we are not saying that we should rely solely on the justice system, but a legislative foundation needs to be in place for other social tools to come into play. Sanctions also exist outside of the formal justice system. Questions to ask:

- What legislation addresses underage drinking and what sanctions are typically applied?
- Are there other sanctions that apply to certain groups of underage drinkers such as school suspensions?
- Are there any informal social sanctions applied to certain groups of underage drinkers (e.g., being grounded by parents, suspended or fined by sporting coaches, or action by employers)?

Stage 6. Identify and implement strategies to address the needs of children and at risk youths.

In this domain we have referenced a number of organisations that can impact on the developmental stage of a young person's life in the preceding section and further organisations that address at risk youths. In this document we have limited our input to those that we are familiar with and urge any community group embarking on a program to address the issue of undertake drinking to identify the resources in their community.

Stage 7. Work with local alcohol vendors and security firms to ensure that staff are trained in the detection of fake identifications and trained in the responsible service of alcohol and enforcement of minimum age for service.

Whilst the alcohol industry currently spends more to promote its products than on messages encouraging responsible drinking, partnerships such as that mentioned in 3.1 may turn the tide. Picture two parallel or angled lines drawn in the sand, then picture them coming together, both then can go further together.

Stage 8. Establish Community Awareness of the mechanisms for preventing underage drinking and managing situations where minors may be exposed to the use of alcohol.

Any group addressing the issue of underage drinking should be familiar with the potential of the Safe Schoolies Initiative and Party Safe. It is also important to note the many places where underage drinking could occur. These may include parties in private residences, outdoor venues such as beaches, parks, fields, or parking lots, bars, restaurants and special events or gatherings surrounding entertainment or sport. It is also worth encouraging parents to monitor movements of children outside of supervised environments.

Stage 9. Consider support for young people disengaging from school "the point at which young people start to disengage from school is often a time when drift into offending is greatest".xxxiii

It follows that where disengagement is either thrust upon students or self generated it is important to provide meaningful alternatives for those students who are suspended or expelled. Ironically in the midst of this challenge lies or greatest ally in assisting youths – their need for connection. The Matthew Stanley Foundation is clear that we would rather have these young people working with other youths that generate joy from positive behaviour than to join a gang that trades on a history of disengagement.

3.6 The economic cost of alcohol related violence

Homicide – total cost \$930 million or \$1.6 million per victim Assault - total cost \$1.44 billion or \$1,600 per assault Sexual assault - total cost \$230 million or \$2,500 per sexual assault

Whilst the above Australian figures are several years old and are at best estimates they do help us understand that violent offences account for a large proportion of the costs of crime in Australia. xxxiii It is acknowledged that the figures do not directly address the link with alcohol but they do demonstrate that we have a serious issue with violence on shores.

Whilst the cold economic figures of the cost of alcohol related violence must be factored into the decision making process as an organisation that owes its genesis to the violent ripping away of a human life, our Foundation appeals to the Committee to also consider "cost" in human terms.

If we are serious that One Punch Can Kill we must ask how death and severe trauma can be converted into an accounting measure. The grief of losing a loved one to homicide is complex and defies many of the linear stage based approaches to the grief. Those who have had a loved one stolen by homicide describe it more like a tangled ball of knotted string. Further the grief is chronic both for the family and loved ones. If we trace the aftermath of violence we encounter many episodes of depression, mood swings, loneliness and fear, the loss of jobs restriction of night time activity and social engagement. Add to this the hard nosed financial impacts of relocating, fitting security systems, expenses associated with missing work, and legal costs.

Studies of homicide families reveal that that they are particularly at risk for developing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Then there is the physical symptoms including insomnia, loss of appetite, lethargy and body fatigue, headaches, nausea and decreased libido.

The physical injuries suffered by survivors of violence may not always be seen on the surface and can hinder long term psychological recovery and can remerge at unpredictable times. Research also shows that health care utilisation and health problems increase following violent attacks^{xxxx} and that victimization by violence increases risks of both addictive behaviours and mental illness.^{xxxxi}

We are however not oblivious to economic realities and within aspect of that reality we see the seeds of opportunity. Stepping beyond what we hope is the human concern with vendors and the like there are sound commercial, legal and social reasons for venue owners to practice the responsible service of alcohol, well beyond the potential fines that may arise from poor practice. At the business face serving intoxicated patrons could result in personal or property damage, which becomes a financial problem for the licensee as may loss of trade, when a venue is seen as a dangerous place. There is also the absenteeism, stress and staff turnover consequence for unsafe work environments.

We know that bravado will sadly still entice those who go looking for trouble but as education programs take hold, more and more people will differentiate between safe and unsafe venues. We have already seen this in the Matthew Stanley youth population.

Costing the impact of alcohol and violence must also take into account the cost of programs undertaken to address alcohol and violence. This can and should of course be shared by organisations deriving commercial benefit from the sale of alcohol. It is the contention of the Matthew Stanley Foundation that those responsible for the design of clever marketing campaigns or directly involved in the manufacture and distribution should make a contribution to safety and community education. In addition to the possibility of delivering equivalent resources to harm minimisation there is also a need to address what is advertised and when. Further outside of the parties themselves there needs to be regulatory control, which as for tobacco advertising rests with the Australian Government with policy decisions made in consultation with the States.

The recent State Government indication that its ICE-breaker initiative was making inroads in tackling rates of methamphetamine use in Queensland is reassuring and the announcement of \$ 5.5 million over three years in additional funding for youth alcohol and drug treatment services across the State must demonstrate a return on the lives saved and the reduction of costs to our health and court systems. **xxxvii**

4. Conclusion

The Matthew Stanley Foundation has particularly focussed on alcohol and its role in youth violence.

We conclude that there is significant evidence that alcohol is contributing factor in youth violence and its flow on cost in lives, trauma and health damage. We acknowledge the Queensland Government's commitment to reforms that ensure that the Liquor Act enhances community safety and amenity and reduces harm from alcohol misuse and abuse. We also applied programs aimed at preventing alcohol use and abuse as it impacts on the health, safety and well-being of individuals, families and the community.

The Matthew Stanley Foundation has drawn on the contribution of many good people and the unwavering commitment of Paul Stanley and his family to preventing the horrid events violently stole his boy's life from repeating itself.

The facts remain that even in the face of the efforts discussed in this document, lives are still being lost and people continue to be traumatised and disfigured.

In roads are however being made and they are being made by truly engaging the youths of Queensland and by entering into collaborative partnerships with others who care. The Foundation regards the challenge great enough to put aside traditional boundaries whether political or philosophical.

The Foundation puts forward an approach that does not demonise the liquor industry but demands that liquor related legislation ensures that any provision that supports commercial benefits first qualifies as not damaging the health of Queenslanders. The Foundation also favours a holistic approach that ensures that risk management in one part of the system does not engender unwanted consequences in another.

We can only ensure that Queensland is safe for any one person to live if it is safe for all of us to live. Our encouragement to youths confronted with violence to stop, think and walk away can only be sound advice if we all stop think and act at a societal level.

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