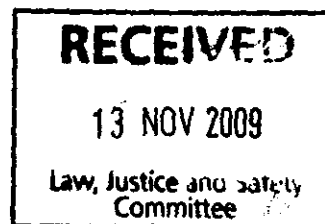


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[REDACTED]
From: webmaster@parliament.qld.gov.au
Sent: Sunday, 15 November 2009 2:02 PM
To: Law, Justice and Safety Committee
Subject: ONLINE SUBMISSION - Alcohol-Related Violence in Queensland



ONLINE SUBMISSION - Inquiry into alcohol-related violence

Name: Leigh Aubrey
Email: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED]
City: [REDACTED]
State: QLD
Postcode: 4121
Phone Number: [REDACTED]

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Best practice harm minimisation measures:

I am a 50 year old Mother of 6 children aged 27,22,20 13,12 and 9 years of age and my husband is a fire fighter who spends his time scrapping idiots off poles and the Gateway Arterial most Friday and Saturday nights . My children are all happy healthy, under control and family orientated. They dont drink and drive due to the education we have given them and the love and support we give them. Anyone of the older ones with licences know they can ring us day or night to come and pick them up, so they don't get behind the wheel of a car with any alcohol in their system.

The impact of late opening hours:

Having been a bar maid many years ago I can tell you it is very hard to judge just how much alcohol can effect one person over another and when it is time to stop serving a customer. If they are sitting quietly drinking all night and not causing a ruckus you tend not to notice them. It doesn't mean they aren't well over the limit. Lack of Parental Supervision for teenagers is one of the biggest problems. Also Parents condoning under age drinking, any parent caught giving under age teenagers alcohol of any kind should have their drivers licences revoked - I think this just might make some of them think twice before they do it.

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

As the wife of a Fire fighter who is at Wishart Station and driving the ET to road smashes on the Gateway Arterial and in our area, fatal accidents are always hard on the boys from the QFRS, Ambulance workers, Tow Truck operators and Police. The first on the scene is always the Fire Dept and last on the scene the Police. I think reducing trading hours is the only way to reduce the effect on our Emergency Services personnel.

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

I believe you need to get young people themselves in to help combat this problem. Who better than the ones who are of that age to tell you how there peer groups and friends think and what they think themselves on how to reduce the problem. I think that in places like the Alexandria Hills Hotel and the Chalk Hotel the problem is made worse by the type of people they have as security and bouncers. Violence breeds more violence. Bouncers pulling people to the ground with their arm behind their back or throwing them down flights of stairs (and I have seen them do this with my own eyes at the Alex a few years ago) is not going to help keep the peace. I don't see a problem with plastic glasses in night clubs and discos. But I think the older people who drink in public bars should have a cold glass. It is up to the Publican to be on the premises and watching what is happening in his/her bar/pub. Leaving the running to very young staff is half the problem. I don't think hotels/bars/pubs need to be open till 3am - it licenses have been extended and extended to ridiculous hours and gives the patron too much time on the street. The campaign on TV of Cars crashing and exactly now it is in an accident involving alcohol and the Girls getting raped are very good as a deterrent and should be played from 3.30pm onwards.

The role of parents in influencing attitudes towards alcohol consumption:

Once again as I said up in another section of this - PARENTS need to take responsibility for their children of all ages. Children of very young ages are running around the streets of many neighbour hoods while their parents are out drinking or at home and just don't care what they are up to. Once again it is the parents who should be made responsible for their children's behaviour. Accountability can come in many forms. Lock the child and one of its parents up in the watch house for 24 hours and see how often the parent soon pull them into line!!!!!! Parents have to be made aware they bought them into the world and they are responsible for what they get up too.

The economic cost of alcoholrelated violence:

The cost to our State is very high. The cost of all Emergency Services going to the callouts and not able to recoup the costs. If a call out is made due to mischief from children or teenagers The family should be given a bill for the call out and the damages they cause and the child made to do community jobs.

Any other Comments:

There are miles of fences and walls in this city that are covered in BAD graffiti. I think if it was organized properly these could be changed into blank canvases for Young people to display their art, Graffiti Art can be quite beautiful and these kids will not TAG SOMEONE ELSE'S art. If all interested kids could be encouraged to use these areas to produce GREAT art It would beautify the entries to the city. The train trip to town would be so much more pleasant so starters.