

My son is now 25 years old in January.

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Three weeks ago he underwent hand/wrist surgery (for his scaphoid). The injury occurred when he was out after 12am with friends. He went out onto the balcony of the Totals Hotel to have a cigarette at 3am and saw a group of aboriginal people there who had been drinking heavily.

Normally he would have left but he knew one of them from school days and thought "all was okay." A very drunk person in the group approached him and "king hit" him then my son retaliated. The bouncers broke it up and everyone was told to leave. (My son included). He could not find his friends and when he left alone, the group were all waiting down the street - my son ran into a side lane and fell back on his hand which caused the injury.

He could not afford medical benefits so was on the public waiting list. After 6 months waiting we (his parents) paid for the operation which was \$10,000 as he had been told he would have arthritis and eventually "withering" and limited use of his hand/wrist. He now has applied for 6 job applications to find a job with lighter duties than his labouring position.

There are many more stories that I could tell you (if I had the time) since he was 18 years old. People who are young should feel safe to go out and not be intimidated!! We are not happy paying for this operation but do not want to see our son disabled in the future!

If it was not so close to Christmas I would tell you a few more incidences that have caused him and us (stress and expense).

In the 1970's we went to the hotels and they closed at 1-00 am at the latest.

We all had a good time and had enough to drink! There were fights and brawls then too but earlier closing would stop some of this (and <sup>the</sup> violence

(and binge drinking

(and victimisation

and the cost and

expense

to PARENTS

and YOUNG

PEOPLE.

PS  
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We are meant to be saving to pay for our old age!

Our son saving for his future by progressing at work!

Hopefully his injury mends well.  
Thank you for reading.