

ONLINE SUBMISSION - Inquiry into alcohol-related violence

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Best practice harm minimisation measures:

1. I believe that they become violent as they've always had violent tendencies even without alcohol. They have underlying psychological issues that need to be attended to so that they can control and deal with their emotions before they become violent. 2. There are limited measures in place. An offender commits time & time again only because the law allows him to do so. 3. An offender can commit over & over again before the law will actually send him/her to jail and the sentence is weak. **START MAKING VIOLENT OFFENDERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR CRIMES - BEING BLIND ROTTEN DRUNK & HAVING NO KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR CRIMES IS NOT AN EXCUSE FOR VIOLENT OFFENCES.** 4. At present very little works. Be more stricter in punishments - the offenders are laughing out loud at their paltry sentences. The more they get away with the more crimes they will commit & more violent they will become.

The impact of late opening hours:

5. It makes no difference to the violent offenders as to when opening hours impacts on their behaviour. They will commit regardless of operating hours. 6. It has helped the staff & security of venues. Patrons become annoyed, irritated & some become irate & those with a tendency to be violent will be violent. 7. The patrons who are locked out of venues in the Valley & City make their way to the CASINO as this has no 3:00am lockout. This is a venue that sells Alcohol and should be treated like all other venues. A thought - No Alcohol sold at the Casino after 3:00 am lockout time or increase the price of alcohol substantially. 8. No Alcohol sold before 4:00pm Monday to Thursday; Opening Hours - Friday & Saturday 4:00pm - 5:00am; Sunday 4:00 & closed at 10:00pm.

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

9. The impact of alcohol-related violence is the same as the victims - stress, abuse, physical injuries and this leads to depression & PTSD. Their resources are stretched to the absolute limit on weekends. More resources should be available on weekends between 9:00pm and 5:00am. These should be standard shifts with a specialised task force for both police & emergency workers. 10. Bring in more workers to allow relief time in between shifts & offer counselling to all.

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

11. Make all offenders responsible for their actions and stop placing the blame on society. We did not pour the alcohol down their throats - **THEY MADE THIS A PERSONAL CHOICE.** Make harsher punishments for all offenders and enforce rehabilitation & counselling. 12 & 13. You can put as many educational campaigns in place as you want - **A WASTE OF TIME & MONEY** - The youth of today are drinking alcohol at home & public places as young as ten years of age and no amount of educational campaigns are going to help as the youth believe they know better. It is up to the parents to stop alcohol being served on their premises and watching their children. 14. Don't waste money for this useless resource - place it where it belongs - for improved services within the Police & Emergency Services.

The role of parents in influencing attitudes towards alcohol consumption:

15. The parents lost all control of their children when all the so called "do-gooders" of the world started interfering with how we are allowed to raise our children. A smack is a smack not a bashing. Now we have a society of children who have no respect for anyone or anything and believe they can do whatever they like whenever they like without having to obey any rules. 16. You try - children have no respect for themselves, their parents, other people; their property or other people's property. With attitudes like this how do you even talk to them.

The economic cost of alcohol-related violence:

17 & 18. The high cost is never going to be reduced as I believe that the violence is only going to increase if harsher penalties for offenders or repeat offenders are not enforced. Don't let them just sit in a cosy Jail cell - make them do hard labour (eg: there are numerous City Council parks, medium strips that need improving; there are also footpaths to clean in the city and all suburbs).

Any other Comments:

There are limited measures in place & when the offender laughs as the Judge places a light sentence on him the situation will only get worse. I believe the only way to reduce harm is to bring out a register to make sure that these violent offenders are not served alcohol in public venues, (for their first offence - Minor violence (drunk & disorderly) 1 year ban), for more major violent offences (assault & resulting death) a life ban should be imposed). Their names and photos would be available to licenced premises and to all alcohol related organisations (such as Alcohol Retail Shops) so that they can be banned from drinking to excess and buying

alcohol in excess. Bar Staff & Retail Staff should be fined heavily with the possibility of losing their job for not providing safe Responsible Service of Alcohol to these offenders.