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To: Law, Justice and Safety Committee
Subject: ONLINE SUBMISSION - Alcohol-Related Violence in Queensland

ONLINE SUBMISSION - Inquiry into alcohol-related violence

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Best practice harm minimisation measures:

1. Why do people drink? relaxation, comfort, loneliness, family stress, coping, pain relief, financial stress, grief. 2. Counselling, The local "lock-up" 3. its still happening. 4. Create community service register/record. Intoxicated individuals that become involved/implicated in violence should be involved in community service programs & have this register available for employees & prospective employees. We need to make the behaviour socially so unacceptable to the point that it effects the individual. Who's accountable?

The impact of late opening hours:

5. licensed venues have traded in many areas of Australia until 3am for >20 years. The ability for the patron to continue to drinking for hours in a licensed premises could be curtailed by closing certain venues earlier. The increase in violence is a by-product of a increasingly violent & discontent society. RSA guidelines are weak & dont prevent excessive consumption. Licensee's compromise the RSA guidelines. 6. Most patrons consume alcohol well before entering licensed premises (this has been a norm for >20 years for economic reasons). The hotel industry will tell you that most consumption is done "off-premise". Thats no doubt why the big industry players own most of the pubs & retail outlets. Maybe they should invest in shuttle buses for patrons or issue subsidised cab charge for patrons that use their venue (like the casino's do). The 3am lockout (or 1am, 2am) forces patrons onto the street which will always expose the intoxicated to assault risk. 7. Trading Hours should be reduced in certain situations & locations. Precincts that are well monitored & policed are a better solution than allowing every large suburban hotel/niteclub/bar to trade until 3am. The venue (major stakeholder) has other opportunities for financial security other than longer trading hours. Patrons have ample opportunity to socialise & consume alcohol (if this is their reason for longer trading hours). Other local traders premises are exposed to vandalism etc in area of late trading. 8. As mentioned earlier RSA is weak & hard to enforce & many venues continue to supply patrons that are intoxicated (through a proxy order). Venues that have a history of bad patron behaviour should show cause as to why hours shouldnt be reduced/restricted. Patrons could be banned (like the pitch invaders at the Gabba) Venue could supply liquor vouchers on entry to regulate an individuals consumption. This could also be done a major sporting venues (Gabba, Lang Park). For example: 6 vouchers on entry before 9pm 4 vouchers on entry after 10pm 2 vouchers on entry after midnight People could be at these venues not just for the drink (the venues say they offers so much to the community - bars, bistros, restaurants, niteclubs, gaming, live music, dancing, socialising, dating etc)

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

9. The fact that paramedics/ambulance officers require an escort when attending certain incidents tells the community that we as a community have a serious issue. The Police Commissioner will tell you that there are no problems before 10pm. What does this tell us. Some people go out-drink too much & are at risk of being involved in a violent incident (or at least witnessing it). Health workers are harassed/assaulted by intoxicated persons regularly (alcohol & other substances). 10. Restrain all intoxicated patrons during & after treatment.

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

11. Turning around such an entrenched drinking culture is near impossible. - Reduce trading hours. - Reduce number of licensed premises. - Reduce/Remove detached bottleshops. - increased opportunity to purchase will always drive sales/consumption of any product. - do not allow major liquor retailers to position bottleshops in shopping centres, small local shopping complexes (e.g next to the video shop, the bread shop or the takeaway etc). Retailers will claim convenience as a factor. Hotels (the local pub should be the outlet for liquor purchases). Ban advertising of alcoholic products (especially loop hole that allows adverts during live sport). No sporting team (amateur or professional) is allowed sponsorship/advertising by liquor brand. Force violent offenders in community service programs & create register of behaviour. 12. Much attention has been focussed on violence & drink driving. Media spotlights on glassing & repeat drink drivers are symptomatic of a much wider social attitude towards bingeing & society's tolerance of excessive alcohol consumption. 13. Limited success in current education programs. 14. More role modelling of influential people in schools along with ex.alcoholics/accident survivors etc. - A series of ads depicting intoxicated/"hungover" persons missing out on the great night or next day due to the physical state. - "Live high on life" campaign offering other ways to get "intoxicated" - Adverts similar to skin cancer (nothing healthy about a tan) campaign showing effects on liver, brain etc when over consumption/bingeing.

The role of parents in influencing attitudes towards alcohol consumption:

15. can be double standards. allowing young persons under 18 to "try/taste" the first drink. evidence suggests that the longer a young person is kept away from tasting alcohol the better outlook there is for bingeing/habitualistaion and or addiction. Parents should not drink alone, partake with food if possible. Dont allow alcohol at home parties where groups of young people attend. Notify local police of any event. Dont go to schoolies...

The economic cost of alcohol related violence:

17. cost to emergency services cost to healthcare services absenteeism as a result of injuries or after effects. 18. person liable for medical costs. person must produce medical certificate & blood test?? if not at work. fine person for damage & conviction recorded if assault occurs.

Any other Comments:

Increase taxes on all alcoholic products. Boost tax on alcopops (sweet,inocuous RTD's are the gateway beverage for young people)
Ban alcoholic products that contain medicinal/therapeutic products that can counter affects of alcohol. (Caffeine,Taurine,vitamins etc)
Ban branded & dual branded products in non-licensed premises. (e.g Beer,Bourbon,Rum merchandise from gift shops etc). (e.g
Bourbon flavoured BBQ sauce from supermarkets etc) These promote earlier association for the particular beverage. Tobacco &
Alcohol companies strategies are similar when it comes to getting more converts. Early & continued exposure of a brand will lead to
more brand loyalty long term. Increased prices(taxes) should lead to increased funding for education campaigns.