

Question on Notice
No. 728
Asked on 23 May 2007

MR SPRINGBORG ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM, FAIR TRADING, WINE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND WOMEN (MRS KEECH)—

With reference to the rapidly escalating problem of alcohol use and abuse by young people—

- (1) Will she introduce legislation that will:
 - a) prohibit persons under 18 years of age purchasing or possessing a home brewing kit; and
 - b) impose fines of a significant magnitude that will deter persons over 18 years of age from supplying or making available home brewing kits to persons under 18 years of age?
- (2) If she is not prepared to support this important proposal, will she give precise details as to why her response is in the negative when there are very defined and stringent regulations against the sale of alcohol to under-aged persons?

ANSWER:

The *Liquor Act 1992* prohibits the sale of liquor to a minor. It also prohibits the supply of liquor to a minor in licensed premises or in a public place.

'Liquor' is defined in the Liquor Act as including "any substance intended for human consumption in which the level of ethyl alcohol (ethanol) is more than 5mL/L (0.5%) at 20°C."

In simple terms, a beverage is considered to be liquor in Queensland if the alcohol content exceeds 0.5%. The sale or supply of such a product would then be regulated by the provisions of the Liquor Act and require the authority of a licence or permit.

The Liquor Act does not prohibit the sale of products that contain no alcohol.

I am further advised that it is impractical and unreasonable to ban the sale of any product merely on the basis that it may potentially be fermented to make alcohol. That would mean prohibiting, through the Liquor Act, the sale to minors of fruit, vegetables, grains and sugar.