

Alcohol Related Violence in the Community: Setting the Scene

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Sarah Jaggard
Community Mobilisation Policy Officer



Alcohol use in Australia

- 90% of Australians drink
- 1/8 adults drink at risky/high risk levels
- 25% of those aged 14-19 years drank alcohol on a daily or weekly basis in the last 12 months.
- Second largest cause of drug related deaths and hospitalisations
- Social cost estimated to be around \$15 billion

The Australian Bureau of Statistics [*Alcohol Consumption in Australia: A Snapshot, 2004-05*](#)

Alcohol and violence

- 70,000 Australians are reported victims of alcohol-related assaults every year
- 2000 alcohol fuelled assaults in Victoria each year



2007 National Drug Strategy Household Survey


- 29% aged >14 abused or put in fear
- 27.5% of recent drinkers have experienced verbal abuse
- 4.8% of recent drinkers have experienced physical abuse
- Most common locations: street, home or licensed premises

Strategies to reduce alcohol related harm

- Pricing and taxation
 - Minimum pricing, taxation
- Regulating the availability of alcohol
 - Densities of retail outlets, hours and days of trade, secondary supply
- Modifying the drinking context
 - Responsible service of alcohol, increased enforcement, community mobilisation

Strategies to reduce alcohol related harm

- Drink driving countermeasures
 - Lowering blood alcohol content limits
- Restrictions on marketing
 - Sponsorship, advertising in public spaces
- Education
 - Warning labels, drinking guidelines, school based education
- Treatment and early intervention



“Popular approaches are ineffective,
effective approaches are politically
impossible”



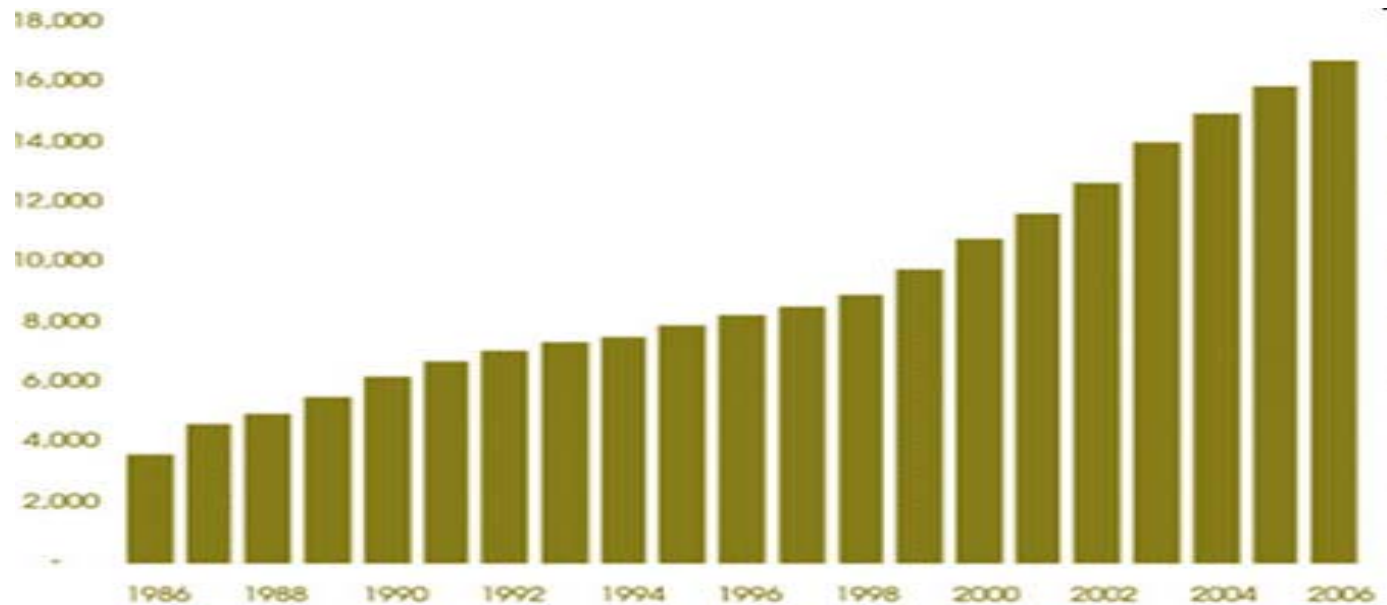
Regulating the availability of alcohol

- Outlet density
- Hours and days of trade
- Secondary supply

Public perceptions of alcohol availability

- Not enough packaged liquor outlets – 2%
- Not enough bars – 6%
- Opening of venues > 3am – 9%
- Packaged liquor outlets > midnight – 5%

Number of liquor licences by year, Victoria, 1986 to 2006



Restrictions on density of outlets

- Strong link between outlet density and violence
- \uparrow outlets = \uparrow assaults



The APC is calling for...

- Tighter controls on the number of liquor licences granted for any given area
- Local Government to be able to set limits on licences in their area

Hours and days of trade

- Numerous studies show links between trading hours and alcohol related violence
- University of Newcastle - 2008 restriction to 3.30am closing times and a 1.30am lock out for 14 pubs and clubs in Newcastle resulted in a 37% reduction in assaults
- NDRI - granting hotels Extended Trading Permits in WA resulted in 70% increase in rates of violence



The APC is calling for...

- No alcohol sales after 3am in licensed venues and after 11pm from packaged liquor outlets
- All 24 hour liquor licences to be phased out

Secondary supply

- Young people can consume unlimited amounts of alcohol
- Parents have little control
- Alcohol use by underage young people not recommended
- Legislation in NSW, QLD and Tasmania

Leigh Clark, VIC



Proposed secondary supply legislation

- That an adult must not supply alcohol to a young person at a private place unless the adult is a parent or guardian or has specific permission of a parent or guardian of that young person
- That the adult must supply alcohol in responsible manner and ensure that it is consumed safely

The APC is calling for...

- The introduction of a law which bans the supply of alcohol to minors without parental consent
- For the legislation to be supported by a comprehensive communication and education campaign to help inform parents and teenagers

In summary...

- ↓ availability of alcohol = ↓ consumption +
↓ harm
- Key policy around the world
- Low cost relative to cost of drinking



Thanks for listening!

Sarah Jaggard

Community Mobilisation Policy Officer

Australian Drug Foundation

P: 03 9278 8114

E: sarah.jaggard@adf.org.au