

Answers to questions on notice

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons – Trauma Committee

Dr John Crozier



27AUG19

The Hon Natalie Ward MLC
Committee Chair
Joint Select Committee on Sydney's night time economy
Parliament House, Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
NightTimeEconomy@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Ward

QUESTION ON NOTICE– ALCOHOL LINKING PROGRAM - *INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY*

This letter is provided in response to the request by the Chair of the Committee to take on notice the provision of evidence of the Alcohol Linking Program

<http://fare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Adoption-of-the-Alcohol-Linking-Program-into-Routine-Practice-by-New-South-Wales-Police.pdf>

The Alcohol Linking Program

- 7 area commands in Lower Hunter and Northern Metropolitan policing regions
- 404 licensed premises randomised to
 - ~ Usual policing (i.e., not much) or
 - ~ *Linking* feedback reports with written advice + visit from police to do 30-item responsible service audit + advice on strategies to reduce service to intoxication + follow-up workshop
- Outcome: alcohol-related incidents for 3 months following intervention
-

The aim of the alcohol linking program was to reduce the number of alcohol related incidents through the achievement of two objectives: the implementation of an intervention to enhance police recording of alcohol intelligence information (data recording intervention); and police delivery to licensees of an educational intervention based upon such information (premises intervention).

Incorporation of the alcohol linking program into New South Wales police practice

Initial research and development suggested that the program interventions were feasible, efficacious and acceptable to stakeholders. Based on such findings, the New South Wales government directed that the program be incorporated into the routine practice of all police across the state. To meet this direction, and adoption model involved three elements: intervention design; organisational change; and adoption resources was implemented.

The program and adoption model were implemented sequentially in three separate geographic areas which, when combined, constitute the State of New South Wales. The adoption model was applied in full in the first two geographic areas. In the third area, the model was applied in a reduced fashion to facilitate the subsequent transfer of responsibility for programme management to New South Wales police.

Future opportunities

Further opportunities exist for the enhancement of the Program interventions and their ability to contribute to a reduction in alcohol related harm.

First, the demonstrated ability of the data recording intervention to provide the required alcohol intelligence and information for the large majority of attended incidents suggests a potential for the same or similar systems to be implemented in other jurisdictions. To date, this potential has been realised through the adoption by New Zealand police and South Australia police of the equivalent intelligence recording systems, despite marked differences between jurisdictions in data collection, data recording, information technology and other systems.

The wider adoption of such systems has been recommended for all police jurisdictions in Australasia (Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy 2006). The apparent success of the adoption strategies applied in this initiative demonstrates a feasible approach to meeting this recommendation.

Second, the premises intervention was designed to provide police with a single additional low-cost option for responding to harms associated with the excessive consumption of alcohol on licensed premises. Given its educational non-punitive focus, the intervention is not intended to, nor is it capable of responding to all forms of licensing non-compliance with liquor licensing requirements.

The findings in this initiative that a large proportion of people involved in incidents who consumed alcohol on licensed premises were intoxicated suggests a potential need for the introduction of a similar intelligence-based approach to the implementation of other forms of police response, such as the issuing of infringement notices, the undertaking a formal proceedings and the imposition of restrictions on trading conditions.

The latter approach has been applied in New South Wales through the imposition of restrictions on licensed premises that were the site of a large number of assaults on the premises. The restrictions included mandatory lockouts, cessation of alcohol services 30 minutes before closing time, drink purchase limits after midnight, and 10 minute alcohol sale “timeouts” every hour after midnight.

Evaluation of the restrictions found a decline in the number of assaults on premises in contrast to previous increasing trend of such assaults (Moffat et al, 2009)

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09595230412331289518>

WIGGERS, J., JAUNCEY, M. , CONSIDINE, R. , DALY, J. , KINGSLAND, M. , PURSS, K. , BURROWS, S. , NICHOLAS, C. and WAITES, R. J. (2004), Strategies and outcomes in translating alcohol harm reduction research into practice: the Alcohol Linking Program. Drug and Alcohol Review, 23: 355-364. doi:[10.1080/09595230412331289518](https://doi.org/10.1080/09595230412331289518)

Facilitating police record

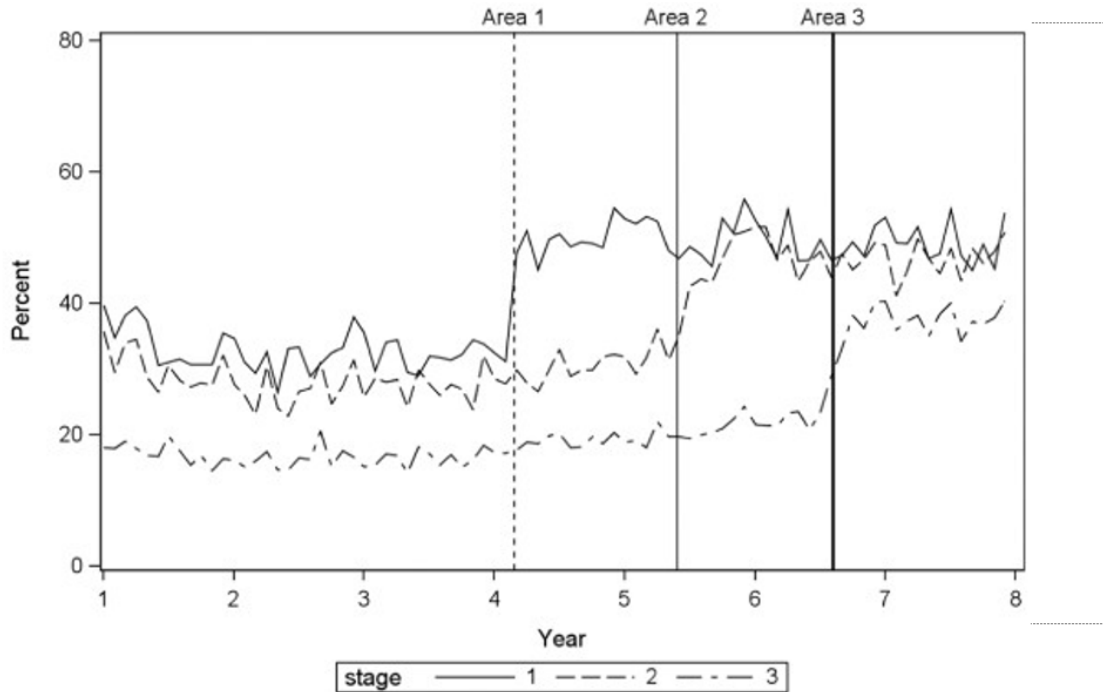
Area	% assault incidents 'flagged' as alcohol-related pre-intervention (SD)	% assault incidents 'flagged' as alcohol-related post-intervention (SD)	Adjusted change in mean proportion of assaults 'flagged' as 'alcohol-related'—pre- to post-intervention	P value
1	33.2% (3.81)	49.7% (2.90)	17.9%	<0.0001
2	29.0% (3.14)	47.0% (2.86)	16.4%	<0.0001
3	18.5% (2.74)	37.5% (2.21)	15.0%	<0.0001
All	26.0% (7.65)	44.5% (5.83)	18.5%	<0.0001

Facilitating police recording of the alcohol-related characteristics of assault incidents: A stepped wedge implementation trial

JOHN H. WIGGERS^{1,2}, ANDREW HACKER¹, MELANIE KINGSLAND^{1,3}, CHRISTOPHE LECATHÉLINAIS¹, JENNIFER TINDALL¹, JENNIFER A. BOWMAN⁴ & LUKE WOLFENDEN^{1,2}

¹School of Medicine and Public Health, The University of Newcastle, Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia; ²Population Health, Hunter New England Local Health District, Willoughby, New South Wales, Australia; ³School of Psychology, The University of Newcastle, Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia

Facilitating police record



I am grateful for your consideration of this information. I am happy to be contacted at any time in relation to the matter

Yours sincerely

John Crozier

Dr John Crozier
Chair, RACS Trauma Committee