



SHOULD ADULTS BE ABLE TO GIVE ALCOHOL TO MINORS WHO ARE NOT THEIR CHILDREN?

MEDIA RELEASE

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This is one of the key questions to arise from a current inquiry by the Legislative Assembly Committee on Social Policy, which is examining the appropriateness of current laws on the provision of alcohol to minors; the level of community understanding of these laws; and whether NSW can benefit from experiences in other jurisdictions.

In a newly released discussion paper, the Committee reveals that many within the community are unclear on the current law; which states that it is not illegal for parents or guardians to provide alcohol to a minor and parents can authorise another adult to provide alcohol to their child.

Also raised in the discussion paper are important questions around what happens if the current laws are retained, and what implications this may have for the consumption and distribution of alcohol within the community. As Chair of the Committee, Mr Bruce Notley-Smith MP, explains “if parental authorisation is retained this raises other important questions, such as how authorisation can be proven, whether it should be given in writing, and how the person providing alcohol can be satisfied that parental authorisation is genuine.”

The inquiry, which has been running since 2012, is now seeking further community input on these and other important questions such as the meaning of ‘responsible supervision’; whether there should be a minimum age limit under which minors cannot be supplied with alcohol, and how enforcement and penalties could be improved.

Concerned individuals and groups are encouraged to read the discussion paper and get in touch with the Committee in order to have their say. The closing date for comments on the discussion paper is 15 July 2013. The paper is available by clicking [here](#), or by contacting the Committee direct at socialpolicy@parliament.nsw.gov.au.

For further comment please contact Mr Bruce Notley-Smith MP on 02 9389 6669