

**Supplementary
Submission
No 22a**

PROVISION OF ALCOHOL TO MINORS

Name: The Hon Jack Dempsey MP
Position: Minister for Police and Community Safety, Queensland
Date Received: 24/07/2013



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16 JUL 2013

Mr Bruce Notley-Smith MP
The Chair
Social Policy Committee
NSW Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Notley-Smith

Thank you for your letter of 28 May 2013 inviting Queensland to comment on the proposed reforms and questions raised in the inquiry into the provision of alcohol to minors, currently being conducted by the New South Wales Legislative Assembly Social Policy Committee.

I referred this matter to the Queensland Police Service which advises that the *Liquor Act 1992* (the Liquor Act) (Qld) regulates the provision of alcohol to minors both on licensed premises and other locations, such as the home. Under the Liquor Act, it is an offence:

- for a person to sell liquor to a minor in any circumstance (section 155A);
- for a minor to be on licensed premises, unless that minor is an exempt minor as defined in the Liquor Act (section 155 and 157(1));
- for a person to supply liquor to, permit or allow liquor to be supplied to or allow liquor to be consumed by a minor on licensed premises (section 156(1));
- for a minor to consume liquor or be in possession of liquor on licensed premises or in a public place (section 157(2)); and
- for a person to supply liquor, or cause or permit liquor to be supplied to a minor in a public place or on a street or place adjacent to licensed premises (section 156(2)).

The Queensland legislation was amended in 2008 to introduce irresponsible supply laws, as part of the harm minimisation focus of liquor reforms. The purpose of the irresponsible supply laws is to address the problems associated with minors consuming liquor at private premises. Under section 156A of the Liquor Act there are two offences:

- for an adult who is not a responsible adult for the minor, to supply liquor to a minor in a private place; and
- for a responsible adult for a minor to supply liquor to the minor in a private place, without responsibly supervising the consumption of the liquor.

The Queensland legislation does not penalise parents or guardians who choose to educate their children in the responsible consumption of liquor through supervised and limited consumption within the family environment.

To address those instances where it can be demonstrated that an adult has irresponsibly allowed a minor to consume alcohol, or has irresponsibly supplied alcohol to a child, a maximum fine of up to \$8,800 applies, this acknowledges the seriousness of the offence. Queensland police officers also have the power to seize the liquor if the officer reasonably suspects it is associated with the irresponsible supply to a minor. The liquor which is seized under this authority is forfeited to the State immediately.

Providing police with the additional legislation to address the irresponsible supply of liquor to minors by parents and other adults in private premises, has been valuable in contributing to the reduction of harms associated with alcohol within the community.

Successful prosecutions have resulted in penalties including fines, community service and probation. Since the introduction of the amendments in 2008, 72 people have been charged by the Queensland Police Service with offences under section 156A of the Liquor Act for the irresponsible supply of alcohol to a minor.

[REDACTED] Officer in Charge of the Drug and Alcohol Coordination Unit is available on telephone [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED] for any further assistance required.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Jack Dempsey MP
Minister for Police and Community Safety