

**Supplementary
Submission
No 30a**

PROVISION OF ALCOHOL TO MINORS

Organisation: Local Government Association and Shires Association of NSW
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Position: Senior Policy Officer Public Health
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15 July 2013

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

Dear Mr Notley-Smith

Inquiry into the Provision of Alcohol to Minors

Thank you for your invitation to provide further comment on the recommendations that were made following the Inquiry into the provision of alcohol to minors.

Further comments on the proposed recommendations have been made relating to those that have implications on the Local Government sector. Local Government NSW (LGNSW) will not comment on the first six proposed recommendations.

As you are aware, Local Government plays a vital role in addressing the matter of provision of alcohol to minors through implementation of alcohol free zones, alcohol prohibited areas and through close partnerships with their communities and businesses such as voluntary Liquor Accords. LGNSW agrees that Liquor supply businesses should be required to be involved in their community's Liquor Accord with increased focus on preventing harmful underage drinking, as noted in recommendation seven.

In line with the initial comments in our original submission, LGNSW supports increased media campaigns and the provision of educational resources through campaigns, workshops and social marketing initiatives for the community as a harm minimisation approach. LGNSW encourages the use of the Local Government public library and information services, public health and community services sections as avenues for promoting this information to communities.

Therefore, LGNSW supports proposed recommendations eight and nine regarding increased awareness campaigns through education using relevant technology.

LGNSW supports proposed recommendation 10 that as part of a public education campaign a website be developed providing easily accessible information to the public, in particular parents. Once developed, LGNSW would be able to promote this resource to councils. Proposed recommendation 11 also has LGNSW support. We support information on the legal and health consequences being provided to parents when their child/children is of pre-school age, and would further support the recommendation to also include early childhood health checks.

LGNSW support legislative amendments to the *Liquor Act 2007* on the provision that the Australian and NSW Governments are able to allocate appropriate resources to address this issue and that any amendment would not impact negatively on Local Government's limited resources in this area. In the *Intergovernmental Agreement on NSW State – Local Government Relations on Strategic Partnerships* endorsed in April 2013 by both spheres of Government, a cost shifting component was included to safeguard the Local Government sector when required to provide a service that capacity needed to be considered.

Local Government supports the harm minimisation approach which includes both preventing anticipating harm and reducing actual harm and involves a range of strategies including prevention, early intervention, increased education and supply control.

LGNSW would like to thank the Legislative Assembly's Social Policy Committee for looking into this important matter that concerns the communities across NSW and has increasingly negative social and economic consequences.

Should you have any further queries with regard to this matter, please contact [REDACTED]
Director - Policy on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM
Joint President

[REDACTED]

Cr Ray Donald
Joint President