



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL ISSUES

MEDIA RELEASE

STRATEGIES TO REDUCE ALCOHOL ABUSE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

16 November 2012

Strategies to reduce alcohol abuse among young people in NSW will be explored in an inquiry commenced by the Social Issues Committee. The Committee will examine the effect of alcohol advertisements and promotions on young people and will consider restrictions on these as a preventative strategy to target this social issue.

"Binge drinking and associated anti-social behavior among young people is a significant problem", said the Hon Niall Blair MLC, Chair of the Social Issues Committee. "Young people are vulnerable to the perceived social benefits of consuming alcohol, whether imposed by culture, peer pressure or advertisements and promotions. The impacts of alcohol abuse can spread into the workplace, on roads and at public venues, which ultimately places a drain on our healthcare system", Mr Blair said.

The inquiry will also examine measures to minimise the impact of alcohol in the workplace and to reduce alcohol related violence in and around licensed venues. This also includes measures to address the impacts of alcohol abuse on the health system.

"It is important that the effectiveness of alcohol harm minimisation strategies targeted at young people are also considered, including the effectiveness of measures to reduce drink driving so we can see what works and what needs to be improved", Mr Blair said. The Committee will be reviewing existing minimisation strategies as part of its terms of reference.

Mr Blair continued: "As the impacts of alcohol abuse among young people are widespread throughout the community, the Committee is actively seeking submissions from all relevant individuals and groups".

The closing date for submissions is Friday 1 March 2013.

The inquiry was referred to the Committee by the Minister for Mental Health, Healthy Lifestyles and Minister for Western NSW, the Hon Kevin Humphries MP.

For more information, including terms of reference and guidelines for making a submission, please visit the Committee's website at: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/socialissues, or contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 9230 2412.