



**Legislative Council  
Standing Committee on Social Issues**

**INQUIRY INTO STRATEGIES TO REDUCE ALCOHOL ABUSE  
AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE IN NSW**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**13 December 2013**

The Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Social Issues has today tabled its Report into strategies to reduce alcohol abuse among young people in New South Wales.

The Inquiry examined the effectiveness of alcohol harm minimisation strategies targeted at young people and measures to reduce alcohol-related violence. The Inquiry also investigated the effect of alcohol advertisements and promotions on young people and their drinking habits.

The Report recommends that an inter-agency committee be established to coordinate research and develop effective policy responses to reduce the impact of pre-loading, or drinking alcohol before going out. Further, the Report recommends that liquor accords be strengthened, and that each accord, in consultation with their community, produce an action plan on how the accord proposes to reduce alcohol-related harms within their area.

The Hon Niall Blair, MLC, Chair of the Social Issues Committee said: "Alcohol is often talked about as part of Australian culture. However, alcohol abuse can destroy lives, wreak havoc on families and communities and cost governments dearly."

"Of all the alcohol-related harms, violence clearly causes the most anxiety and distress, particularly where young people are involved. We heard a lot of evidence on how to reduce this violence. It is my firm belief that local communities that suffer alcohol-related violence need to develop solutions appropriate to their circumstances." said Mr Blair

The Inquiry received a total of 54 submissions and held three public hearings at Parliament House on 29 April, 6 May and 17 June 2013, and one hearing and a roundtable discussion at Byron Bay on 8 October 2013, hearing evidence from 60 witnesses in total.

Copies of the Report can be printed from the Committee's website:  
[www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/socialissues](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/socialissues)

*For further comment please contact the Hon Niall Blair MLC  
Committee Chair, on 9230 2467*