

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

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Submission to Inquiry into Strategies to Reduce Alcohol Abuse among Young People in NSW

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This submission addresses item g) of the Terms of Reference, reporting on findings from a current research project that are relevant to strategies to reduce alcohol abuse among young people. The project, *Alcohol Use and Harm Minimisation among Australian University Students*, is funded by the Australian Research Council, NSW Health, Victorian Health Department and University Colleges Australia. The research is being conducted by the following senior university researchers:

Associate Professor Toni Schofield, The University of Sydney (Project Leader)

Associate Professor Jo Lindsay, Monash University

Associate Professor Julie Hepworth, The University of Queensland

Professor John Germov, University of Newcastle

Dr Rose Leontini, The University of Sydney.

The findings we present here are drawn from a number of studies that comprise the project. Each of the studies adopts a specific methodological approach in gathering and analysing data from Australian university students regarding their alcohol use and harm minimisation practices. The methods used involve a large survey, in-depth interviews and focus groups. The detailed findings are yet to be submitted for peer review and publication but we believe that the findings we outline here are sufficiently robust to be presented to this Inquiry. They focus on harm minimisation strategies that are subject to *public and institutional regulation* and that students identify as most significant in their use of alcohol

1. Adequate provision of professional *security personnel* in licensed venues and other public events involving large numbers of people and alcohol use.
2. Adequate provision of *water that is freely available*.
3. *Responsible service of alcohol through sufficient employment of staff*. This prevents the practice of patrons having to queue at bars for lengthy periods, resulting in the purchase and consumption of large quantities of alcohol.
4. Adequate provision of safe, affordable and accessible *public transport*, especially for major events and in the evenings on the weekend (Friday and Saturday especially).
5. Improved security and responsible alcohol service at *university-based* licensed premises and events.