

**Submission  
No 1**

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

**Organisation:** Pedestrian Council of Australia

**Date received:** 17/12/2012

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This is a copy of the letter which was published in the Sydney Morning Herald in the letters column on Wednesday 12 December 2012

(QUOTE):

"Definition of drunk is flaw in the debate

Your article acknowledges the costs associated with over-consumption of alcohol but does not address the real cause ("High-risk drinking out of control in NSW", December 11). Apart from the pain, grief and suffering, road trauma costs Australia more than \$27 billion a year. Pedestrians account for about 20 per cent of deaths and injuries on our roads, but typically, pedestrian injuries cost double those of injuries sustained by occupants of vehicles. More than 20 per cent of pedestrians killed on our roads have a blood-alcohol content exceeding 0.15.

The flaw in the debate is the belief that those serving alcohol are trained and certified in its "responsible service".

To know whether someone is too intoxicated to be served another drink is impossible without a legally defined maximum BAC and an Australian Standards-approved breathalyser.

There are legal limits for drivers but no one can agree on a definition of when a patron is legally intoxicated.

This charade has allowed the industry to feign responsibility, while alcohol-related deaths, injuries and mayhem continue unabated. Imagine if police were required to conduct random breath-testing operations by guessing if drivers were over the limit.

The violence and carnage will continue until the government legally defines the maximum allowable BAC for the service of alcohol, and mandates the use of approved breath-testing equipment.

Harold Scruby chairman, Pedestrian Council of Australia"

You may also be interested in our current NEVER LET A MATE WALK HOME DRUNK TV campaign:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jERpYxBwmlU&feature=youtu.be>

Would you please accept this as our submission.

Regards  
Harold

Harold Scruby  
Chairman/CEO

Pedestrian Council of Australia Limited  
The Walking Class