



# Call to ban bus stop booze ads

## Kent Acott

Health groups want alcohol advertising removed from all public transport, train stations and bus stops.

The call from the McCusker Centre for Action on Alcohol and Youth came after a review found more than half of 584 Perth bus stops had advertisements for alcohol, junk food or sugary drinks.

One in seven advertisements was for alcohol, including beer, whisky, gin, liqueurs and vodka.

“Children should be able to go outside without being bombarded with ads for beer, fast-food outlets and soft drinks,” WA Heart Foundation chief executive Maurice Swanson said.

“It is disturbing that more than half the advertisements at bus stops where children wait and congregate are for unhealthy products.”

McCusker Centre executive officer Julia Stafford said the review showed young people were exposed daily to heavy alcohol promotion where they

were guaranteed to see it.

“This is despite all the concerns about alcohol use among young people and evidence that they are influenced by alcohol advertising,” she said.

“There are no effective controls on the placement of outdoor alcohol ads in Australia.

“The current voluntary codes are totally inadequate.

“There are even alcohol ads on bus stops outside schools.”

Since its launch in 2012, the Alcohol Advertising Review Board has had 130 complaints about alcohol advertisements on public transport and transit stops from all around Australia — 18 per cent of all complaints.

“We have written to all State and Territory transport ministers calling on them to amend advertising contracts or existing legislation to prohibit alcohol ads on buses, trains and trams, and at train stations and bus stops — the places children are most likely to be exposed to them,” Ms Stafford said.

Public Health Association of Australia chief executive

Michael Moore said the ACT Government was leading the way by banning alcohol advertising on its public buses.

“We call on other jurisdictions to follow this example which protects young people from alcohol promotion,” he said.

Mr Swanson said there was growing recognition that obesity was now one of society’s greatest health challenges.

“How can we hope to stem the rising tide of chronic diseases when children are being exposed daily to massive promotions for products that are likely to do so much long-term harm to their health,” he said.

The review report is available at [alcoholadreview.com.au](http://alcoholadreview.com.au)