

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **WA LIQUOR CONTROL ACT – POSITIVES IN GOVERNMENT RESPONSE BUT MORE ACTION NEEDED TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

The State Government's response to the review of the Liquor Control Act 1988, tabled in the Parliament today, includes some welcome developments, but misses some important opportunities to protect children and young people, Professor Mike Daube, Director of the McCusker Centre for Action on Alcohol and Youth said today.

Commenting on the government's response to the Independent Committee review, Professor Daube said it was mixed, but it was clear that the government had listened to community concerns.

“We welcome the commitment announced at the weekend to introduce secondary supply legislation, and today's announcement of stronger controls over delivery of liquor, particularly to juveniles; action that should make involvement in the liquor licensing process easier for the community; maintaining a tough line on liquor mixed with energy drinks; and acceptance of some recommendations that will simplify administrative processes.”

“It is disappointing, however, that the government will not implement its own Committee's recommendations on controlled purchase powers for police to help prevent sales to minors; on curbing alcohol promotion that impacts on children; on funding education programs from license fees, and on limiting new licensed premises within 400m of schools. The decision to increase trading hours (including for nightclubs) on Sundays also seems to go beyond the Committee's recommendations.”

“The positive developments will make a difference and should be welcomed. We will urge the government to implement these measures as speedily as possible, but also to implement further action as recommended by the Committee that will protect children and young people. Controlled purchase powers will be a very high priority for us when the new legislation is debated next year.”

Increases in alcohol trading hours will inevitably lead to increased harms and further pressures on the health and police frontline staff and budgets. It will be important to ensure that there are adequate resources for both the law enforcement and health services that carry so much of the burden of alcohol problems.”

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