

**Opening Statement to the House Standing Committee on Family, Community,
Housing and Youth**

Inquiry into the impact of violence on young Australians

ABN: 39 008 455 525

Witnesses:

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INTRODUCTION

- GOOD MORNING MADAM CHAIR. MY NAME IS DAVID TEMPLEMAN. I AM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR THE ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA (ADCA). WITH ME TODAY IS SOPHIE TURNBULL, A POLICY OFFICER AT ADCA WHO CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THIS IMPORTANT HEARING.
- THANK YOU MADAM CHAIR FOR INVITING ADCA TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF VIOLENCE AMONGST AUSTRALIA'S YOUTH.
- ADCA IS THE NATIONAL PEAK BODY FOR AUSTRALIAN ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS (AOD) NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS (NGOS). AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR, ADCA REPRESENTED 379 ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO DEAL WITH THE HARMS CAUSED BY ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS ABUSE.
- FOR OVER 40 YEARS, ADCA HAS WORKED WITH GOVERNMENTS AND THE AOD SECTOR TO CREATE AND SUPPORT EFFECTIVE EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY CHANGE. THIS HAS LED TO AUSTRALIA IMPLEMENTING WORLD BEST PRACTICES IN RELATION TO REDUCING HARMS FROM ALCOHOL AND DRUGS, THROUGH MEASURES SUCH AS NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS LIKE DRUG ACTION WEEK.
- MY OPENING STATEMENT TODAY WILL FOCUS ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG MISUSE AND YOUTH VIOLENCE. UNDERSTANDING THE CONTRIBUTION THAT ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG USE MAKES TO THE CULTURE OF YOUTH VIOLENCE IS VITAL TO FORMING POLICIES TO REDUCE THE CURRENT CONCERNS ABOUT THIS.
- FIRSTLY, WE WILL OUTLINE THE EVIDENCE THAT SUPPORTS THE LINK BETWEEN ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE. ADCA ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THIS IS NOT THE ONLY CONTRIBUTING FACTOR WHEN IT COMES TO INCIDENTS OF YOUTH VIOLENCE BUT IT IS A MAJOR ISSUE ACROSS AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITIES, BOTH REGIONAL AND

METROPOLITAN, AND A TOPIC ON WHICH ADCA IS QUALIFIED TO GIVE EVIDENCE.

- SECONDLY, WE WILL OUTLINE WHY IT IS THAT ALCOHOL IN PARTICULAR PRESENTS A PROBLEM WITHIN COMMUNITIES DUE TO ITS WIDE AVAILABILITY AND THE PREVALENCE OF BINGE DRINKING AMONGST YOUNG PEOPLE. THE POINT HERE IS THAT ALCOHOL, BEING MORE WIDELY USED THAN ANY ILLICIT DRUG, IS A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR IN A GREATER PROPORTION OF INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE.
- THIRDLY, WE WILL PRESENT EVIDENCE THAT INDICATES THAT YOUNG MALES ARE MORE LIKELY TO COMMIT VIOLENT ACTS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL THAN THEIR FEMALE COUNTERPARTS.
- FINALLY I WILL LIST THREE MEASURES AIMED AT REDUCING THE LEVELS OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG-RELATED VIOLENCE INCLUDING AMENDMENTS TO LIQUOR LICENSING, MEASURES TO REDUCE CROWDING IN LICENSED VENUES AND MANDATORY RESPONSIBLE SERVICE OF ALCOHOL (RSA) TRAINING FOR ALL EMPLOYEES IN EVERY LICENSED VENUE ACROSS AUSTRALIA.

POINT 1: EVIDENCE SUPPORTS A LINK BETWEEN ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG USE AND VIOLENCE

- ADCA IS OF THE VIEW THAT THERE IS A DIRECT LINK BETWEEN THE EXCESSIVE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL, THE TAKING OF OTHER DRUGS, AND VIOLENCE. RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION LAST YEAR CONFIRMS THAT YOUNG PEOPLE ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE INVOLVED IN VIOLENCE, EITHER AS PERPETRATORS OR AS VICTIMS, WHEN THEY ARE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUGS. THIS IS NOT THE ONLY CONTRIBUTING FACTOR, BUT IT IS A MAJOR PART OF THE PROBLEM IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

- MAY I ALSO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO URGE THE COMMITTEE TO TAKE NOTE OF THE INCREASED PRESSURE THAT ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG-RELATED VIOLENCE, PARTICULARLY AMONG YOUNG AUSTRALIANS IN PUBLIC VENUES, HAS PLACED ON POLICE AND PARAMEDICS. YOU ONLY HAVE TO CONSULT FRONTLINE WORKERS – POLICE, PARAMEDICS, AND MEDICAL STAFF IN EMERGENCY WARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO LEARN WHAT THEY COME UP AGAINST. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE POLICE FEDERATION, DUE TO GIVE EVIDENCE LATER THIS MORNING, MAY VERY WELL CONFIRM THAT ALCOHOL AND DRUG-AFFECTED PERSONS MAKE UP A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF ASSAULT PERPETRATORS. NSW POLICE COMMISSION, ANDREW SCIPIONE, WAS QUOTED IN THE MEDIA IN 2008 AS SAYING ‘ALCOHOL-RELATED VIOLENCE, WAS THE ONE CRIME THAT CONTINUED TO RISE AND WAS NOW THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY FOR NSW POLICE.’ HE WENT ON TO ADD THAT 75 PERCENT OF STREET CRIMES WERE ALCOHOL-RELATED. THESE FRONTLINE WORKERS ALL HAVE A SIMILAR STORY, WHEN IT COMES TO INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE, VERY OFTEN, THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUGS WILL BE INVOLVED.

POINT 2: ALCOHOL IN PARTICULAR CONTRIBUTES TO A HIGH PROPORTION OF VIOLENT INCIDENTS

- THE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE MISUSE OF ALCOHOL AND INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE IS PARTICULARLY STRONG. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE COMMITTEE HAS HEARD PRIOR EVIDENCE PLAYING DOWN THE CONTRIBUTION ALCOHOL MAKES TO THE CULTURE OF YOUTH VIOLENCE. THE AUSTRALIAN HOTELS ASSOCIATION (AHA) HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY VOCAL ON THIS POINT, IDENTIFYING ILLICIT DRUGS AS THE MORE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTING FACTOR.
- ADCA DOES NOT DISPUTE THE CLAIM THAT PEOPLE WHO CONSUME ILLICIT DRUGS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE VIOLENT WHILST UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS THAN THEY ARE WHEN NOT UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS. SIMILARLY, IT HAS BEEN SHOWN THAT THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL INCREASES THE LIKELIHOOD OF A VIOLENT INCIDENT OCCURRING – AN

INDIVIDUAL IS MORE LIKELY TO BE VIOLENT WHEN THEY ARE INTOXICATED THAN THEY ARE WHEN THEY ARE SOBER. WHILST ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS BOTH CONTRIBUTE TO THE OCCURRENCE OF VIOLENCE, THE PREVALENCE OF ALCOHOL MEANS THAT MORE INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE ARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO ALCOHOL THAN OTHER DRUGS. THEREFORE, ADCA DEEMS POLICIES AIMED AT RESTRICTING THE AVAILABILITY OF ALCOHOL TO BE A PRIORITY IN ANY EFFORT TO REDUCE THE LEVELS OF VIOLENCE AMONGST AUSTRALIA'S YOUTH.

- THE AHA HAS RELIED LARGELY ON ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE TO ASSERT THAT ALCOHOL PRESENTS LESS OF A PROBLEM THAN ILLICIT DRUGS WHEN IT COMES TO VIOLENCE. THEY HAVE DRAWN ON THE COMMENTS MADE BY A STUDENT, A HOTELIER AND AN AOD WORKER TO ASSERT THAT THE RELATIVE COST OF A DRUG SUCH AS ECSTASY COMPARED TO THAT OF ALCOHOL MAKES YOUNG PEOPLE MORE LIKELY TO CONSUME ILLICIT DRUGS THAN ALCOHOL.

On page 7 of their submission to this Committee, the AHA quotes The Director of Drug Monitoring with Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia, Mr Jason White as saying:

"The relative cost of alcohol at some venues compared to the cost of an ecstasy tablet means that some people regard the ecstasy as a better way to spend their money."

The submission goes on to quote a young student who agrees that he finds it more economically viable to consume a single ecstasy tablet than to consume multiple alcoholic beverages.

Finally, the submission quotes a Dubbo hotel licensee who also states his opinion that (other) drugs play a greater role in causing violence than alcohol does.

- IT IS LIKELY THAT THE AHA'S EVIDENCE IS AFFECTED BY A CONCERN THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO REDUCE VIOLENCE ON LICENSED PREMISES MAY INVOLVE MORE RESTRICTIVE LIQUOR LICENSING LAWS WHICH WOULD AFFECT THEIR STAKEHOLDERS.
- IN ANY CASE, MAY I EXPRESS OUR CONCERN REGARDING ANY ATTEMPT TO PLAY DOWN THE CONTRIBUTION ALCOHOL USE MAKES TO LEVELS OF VIOLENCE. THE AHA ARGUMENT RELIES ON THE DISTORTION OF REAL EVIDENCE, WHICH ACTUALLY CONFIRMS THAT ALCOHOL IS A FAR MORE POPULAR DRUG OF CHOICE FOR AUSTRALIA'S YOUTH.

Drug	Age group	2004 usage*	2007 usage*
Alcohol	14-19	73.6	74.0
	20-29	94.3	91.4
Any illicit	14-19	29.3	23.8
	20-29	58.1	54.0
Cannabis	14-19	25.5	20.0
	20-29	54.5	49.5
Amphetamines	14-19	6.6	2.1
	20-29	21.1	16.0
Ecstasy	14-19	6.2	6.0
	20-29	22.0	23.9
Source: Australian institute of health and wellbeing (2004 and 2007) *usage figures include ex-drinkers in alcohol category (ie people who have not consumed alcohol in past 12 months) as well as lifetime figures for illicit drugs (ie people who may have tried once).			

- THE WIDESPREAD USE OF ALCOHOL IS PROBLEMATIC WHEN COUPLED WITH EVIDENCE THAT THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL INCREASES THE LIKELIHOOD OF AN INDIVIDUAL ACTING VIOLENTLY. RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT RATES OF PHYSICAL AND VERBAL ABUSE BY A PERSON AFFECTED BY ALCOHOL WERE MORE THAN TWICE THE RATE FOR OTHER DRUG TYPES. (PLANT, PLANT AND THORTON, 2002)
- NATIONAL SURVEYS OF ALCOHOL USE AND VICTIMISATION PROVIDE EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE OF THE IMPACT OF ALCOHOL RELATED VIOLENCE WHICH ALSO SUPPORTS THAT ALCOHOL EXACERBATES LEVELS OF

VIOLENCE. ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL DRUG STRATEGY HOUSEHOLD SURVEY (NDSHS), IN 2007 APPROXIMATELY:

- 1 IN 4 AUSTRALIANS WERE A VICTIM OF ALCOHOL-RELATED VERBAL ABUSE
 - 13 PERCENT WERE MADE TO FEEL FEARFUL BY SOMEONE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL
 - 4.5 PERCENT OF AUSTRALIANS AGED 14 YEARS OR OLDER HAD BEEN PHYSICALLY ABUSED BY SOMEONE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL (AIHW 2008).
- THE COMBINATION OF THESE TWO PIECES OF EVIDENCE – THE HIGH LEVELS OF CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL, PARTICULARLY AMONGST YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE EFFECT THAT ALCOHOL HAS ON A PERSON, SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE COMMITTEE THAT THE ISSUE OF ALCOHOL ABUSE IN AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITIES MUST BE ADDRESSED IN ANY ATTEMPT TO REDUCE LEVELS OF VIOLENCE.
 - ADCA IS NOT ALONE IN ITS OPINION THAT ALCOHOL IS AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO LEVELS OF VIOLENCE. AT LEAST NINE OTHER SUBMISSIONS TO THIS COMMITTEE RAISE THE ABUSE OF ALCOHOL AS A CONCERN REGARDING VIOLENCE AMONG YOUNG AUSTRALIANS. MOST NOTABLY, THE AUSTRALIAN DRUG FOUNDATION (ADF) SHARES ADCA'S OPINION ABOUT ALCOHOL CONTRIBUTING TO VIOLENCE STATING AS FOLLOWS:

Collateral damage, or harm caused to others by people under the influence of alcohol, is both common and serious. In a recent Australian study of 2649 adults, 43% reported experiencing serious harm (abuse, threat, damage) from strangers who had been drinking. Young adults aged 20-29 yrs, who are the heaviest drinking cohort within the population, also bear the greatest burden. This study concluded that reducing the second-hand effects of drinking on others is an important consideration for alcohol policy.

- SINCE LATE 2007, ADCA'S PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS MESSAGE HAS BEEN: 'ALCOHOL IS A DRUG – *TOO!*' THIS MESSAGE WAS DESIGNED TO ALERT AND ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS THAT EXCESSIVE ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION CAN LEAD TO VIOLENT BEHAVIOUR, CAUSE THE DEATH OF INDIVIDUALS, IMPACT ON FAMILY AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING, AND IS A SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COST FOR AUSTRALIA. THE MESSAGE REGARDING THE IMPACT THAT ALCOHOL HAS ON AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITIES, PARTICULARLY THE CONTRIBUTION ALCOHOL MAKES TO LEVELS OF VIOLENCE AMONGST THESE COMMUNITIES IS NOT NEW. IT SEEMS THAT NOW, AS VIOLENCE BECOMES INCREASINGLY PREVALENT IN BOTH THE CBD'S OF CAPITAL CITIES AND REGIONAL AREAS ALIKE, THE NEED TO ADDRESS ISSUES SURROUNDING BINGE DRINKING AMONGST AUSTRALIA'S YOUTH IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER.

POINT 3: THE LINK BETWEEN ALCOHOL AND VIOLENCE IS PARTICULARLY STRONG AMONGST YOUNG MALES

- IT IS NOT AS SIMPLE AS SAYING 'ALCOHOL LEADS TO VIOLENCE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE.' INDEED, RESEARCH SUGGESTS THAT ALCOHOL GENERALLY HAS A DIFFERENT EFFECT ON THE BEHAVIOR OF MEN AND WOMEN. PUT SIMPLY, YOUNG MEN ARE MORE LIKELY TO COMMIT ACTS OF VIOLENCE WHILST INTOXICATED, WHEREAS YOUNG WOMEN ARE MORE LIKELY TO BECOME THE VICTIMS OF VIOLENT ACTS WHILST INTOXICATED. STUDIES OF PATTERNS OF VIOLENCE INDICATE THAT YOUNG MALES ARE UP TO **FIVE TIMES MORE LIKELY TO ENGAGE IN ALCOHOL-FUELLED VIOLENCE** THAN YOUNG FEMALES.¹ WOMEN ARE LESS LIKELY TO ACTUALLY ENGAGE IN OFFENDING BEHAVIOUR, OR TO REACT VIOLENTLY AND WITH HEIGHTENED AGGRESSION, WHEN PROVOKED BUT ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE VULNERABLE TO THE RISK OF VIOLENCE IN THE FORM OF SEXUAL ASSAULT COMMITTED BY STRANGERS OR ACQUAINTANCES, PARTICULARLY WHEN DRINKING OCCURS IN A PUBLIC ENVIRONMENT.

**POINT 4: MEASURES THAT REDUCE THE AVAILABILITY OF ALCOHOL MAY
REDUCE LEVELS OF ALCOHOL-RELATED VIOLENCE**

- THE DANGERS ASSOCIATED WITH BINGE DRINKING, PARTICULARLY THE ISSUE OF INCREASED VIOLENCE AMONGST AUSTRALIA'S YOUTH HAS BECOME A NATIONAL ISSUE AND CONTINUES TO DOMINATE COMMUNITY DEBATE. THE CULTURE OF HEAVY DRINKING PERMEATES OUR SOCIETY, AND BRINGING ABOUT CHANGE WILL REQUIRE A COORDINATED, EDUCATED, AND STRATEGIC PUBLIC AWARENESS APPROACH. THE APPROACH MUST INVOLVE PREVENTION, LAW REFORM, EDUCATION, AND EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT.
- IN LIGHT OF THE EVIDENCE SUPPORTING A STRONG LINK BETWEEN THE MISUSE OF ALCOHOL IN PARTICULAR AND INCIDENCES OF VIOLENCE, ADCA HAS CONSISTENTLY CALLED FOR A RESTRICTION ON THE AVAILABILITY OF ALCOHOL IN ORDER TO REDUCE LEVELS OF ALCOHOL-RELATED VIOLENCE. THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT CONFIRMS THAT THE AVAILABILITY OF ALCOHOL AFFECTS LEVELS OF ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION AND THEREFORE ALCOHOL-RELATED HARM. NUMEROUS INTERNATIONAL AND AUSTRALIAN STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT PRICING, THROUGH TAXATION, IS AN EFFECTIVE MEASURE TO REDUCE ALL HARMS, INCLUDING VIOLENCE FROM EXCESSIVE ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION.

(WAGENAAR, SALOIS AND KOMRO. *EFFECTS OF BEVERAGE ALCOHOL PRICE AND TAX LEVELS ON DRINKING: A META-ANALYSIS OF 1003 ESTIMATES FROM 112 STUDIES*. ADDICTION 2009; 104: 179-190)

- ADCA ALSO SUPPORTS THE ENACTMENT OF CONSISTENT LIQUOR LICENSING LEGISLATIVE REFORMS IN ALL AUSTRALIAN STATES/ TERRITORIES. QUEENSLAND AND VICTORIA HAVE ADOPTED RISK-BASED MODELS WITHIN THEIR LICENSING SCHEMES. THIS IS A GOOD START BUT MEASURES SUCH AS VENUE CAPACITY MULTIPLIERS, EXPLICIT PROMOTION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ALCOHOL GUIDELINES, AND DIFFERENTIAL PERSON PER SQUARE METRE OCCUPANCY RATIOS COULD CREATE A

MORE EFFICIENT, BETTER TARGETED LICENSING REGIME ACROSS ALL JURISDICTIONS.

- CROWDING HAS BECOME A PARTICULAR ISSUE, ESPECIALLY IN POPULAR PREMISES IN AUSTRALIA'S CAPITAL CITIES. OVERCROWDING HAS BEEN SHOWN TO CONTRIBUTE TO ALCOHOL-RELATED AGGRESSION AND VIOLENCE IN LICENSED VENUES.
- CURRENTLY THERE IS NO NATIONAL STANDARD TO CALCULATE MAXIMUM NUMBERS OF PATRONS (OCCUPANCY LOADING) ALLOWED ON A LICENSED PREMISE. SOME STATES/ TERRITORIES DEVOLVE PLANNING TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, WHILE OTHERS IMPOSE A CONSISTENT PERSON PER SQUARE METRE LIMIT BASED ON FLOOR PLANS SUBMITTED BY LICENSEES.
- IMPOSING AN UPPER LIMIT ON PATRON NUMBERS IS INTENDED TO LIMIT OR REDUCE THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF CROWDING SUCH AS INTOXICATED FRUSTRATION AND AGGRESSION. IT ALSO HELPS EMERGENCY SERVICE PERSONNEL TO MANAGE EMERGENCY INCIDENTS, AND FACILITATES SAFE EXIT FROM THE PREMISES. DOOR STAFF PLAY A KEY ROLE IN REGULATING PATRON NUMBERS BY REGULATING ENTRY AND EXIT POINTS, IMPLEMENTING POLICIES RESTRICTING AVAILABILITY OF PASS OUTS, AND ASSISTING IN MAINTAINING CONTROL OVER PATRON NUMBERS. IN ADDITION, ADEQUATE DOOR STAFFING, CROWD CONTROL AND ENTRY REGULATIONS LIMITING 'PUB-HOPPING', HAS BEEN FOUND TO RESULT IN INTER-GROUP CONFLICT, FIGHTS, CRIME AND PUBLIC DISORDER. ADCA BELIEVES THAT THESE MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN IN ALL LICENSED VENUES ACROSS AUSTRALIA.
- THE WAY ALCOHOL IS PROMOTED, FOR SALE AT BOTH OFF-LICENSED (THROUGH VOLUME DISCOUNTING, AND LOSS-LEADERS) AND ON-LICENSED PREMISES (VIA EXTENSIVE HAPPY HOUR PROMOTIONS, ALL-YOU-CAN-DRINK OFFERS AND SPECIAL DEALS TO ENCOURAGE FEMALE PATRONAGE) COMBINE TO EXACERBATE OUR EXCESSIVE DRINKING CULTURE. FURTHER, RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT RESTRICTING RISKY

PROMOTIONS WHICH ENCOURAGE EXCESSIVE CONSUMPTION MAY RESULT IN LOWER ALCOHOL-RELATED VIOLENCE. ADCA RECOMMENDS THAT DEFINING AND ENFORCING ACCEPTABLE ALCOHOL PROMOTIONS IN BOTH ON AND OFF-LICENSE VENUES MAY REDUCE ALCOHOL-RELATED VIOLENCE.

- ADCA ALSO BELIEVES THAT MANDATORY RESPONSIBLE SERVICE OF ALCOHOL (RSA) TRAINING SHOULD BE LEGISLATED FOR IN ALL STATE/ TERRITORY JURISDICTIONS' LIQUOR LICENSING LEGISLATION. THIS RSA TRAINING SHOULD EXTEND TO ALL WORKERS WITHIN A LICENSED VENUE, ACROSS ALL VENUES IN THIS COUNTRY. THE ISSUE OF ALCOHOL-RELATED VIOLENCE IS A NATION ISSUE AND REQUIRES A NATIONAL SOLUTION. WE NEED TO ADDRESS THE WAY ALCOHOL IS SERVED IN THE PREMISES THAT TOO OFTEN BECOME THE SCENES OF VIOLENCE. WHY IS IT THAT YOUNG PATRONS ARE ALLOWED TO BECOME SO AFFECTED BY ALCOHOL THAT THEIR PROPENSITY TO BE AGGRESSIVE IS INCREASED IN THESE PLACES? ATTITUDES SURROUNDING THE SERVING OF ALCOHOL IN LICENSED PREMISES MUST CHANGE IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF GROSSLY INTOXICATED PATRONS AND THEREFORE THE LEVELS OF ALCOHOL-RELATED HARM.

CONCLUSION

- IN CONCLUSION, THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT SUPPORTS THE LINK BETWEEN ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE. FURTHER EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT ALCOHOL IS PARTICULARLY PROBLEMATIC AND AN ISSUE ARISING LARGELY AMONGST YOUNG MALES. FINALLY, THERE ARE THINGS WE CAN BE DOING TO CURB THE INCREASE IN VIOLENT INCIDENTS AMONGST OUR YOUTH – WE HAVE OUTLINED THESE IN OUR SUBMISSION AND AGAIN HERE TODAY. I LOOK FORWARD TO THE COMMITTEE'S RESPONSE.
- THANK YOU.