

Queensland Government Response

to Law, Justice and Safety Committee's final report
into alcohol-related violence

27 August 2010

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A summary

The Queensland Government will move decisively to introduce measures curbing alcohol-related violence following a final report on this issue from Parliament's Law, Justice and Safety Committee.

The Government will take immediate action to provide a long-term approach to reduce such anti-social behaviour as well as developing an effective liquor regulatory harm minimisation strategy.

Drink Safe Precincts

The centrepiece of the Government's approach will be the introduction of Drink Safe Precincts (DSPs) in key locations under a \$4.267 million plan to counter alcohol-related violence problems in Queensland.

This place-based management approach will use the combined resources of state and local Government agencies, industry and community organisations, to deliver practical local solutions to reduce alcohol-related violence. Increased police numbers, more support services provided by community groups, better public transport information, and special safe zones will be features of the new precincts. Other local issues such as crowding, footpath queuing, traffic and toilet amenities will also be able to be addressed by local DSP committees.

The Government will pilot this approach in three DSPs from December 2010 – Fortitude Valley, Surfers Paradise and Townsville.

The precincts will be piloted for two years, and the Government has already approved \$4.267 million in 'kick start' funding for the first year of the pilot. This initial funding will provide the opportunity for evaluation of the pilot arrangements and for discussions with industry about arrangements for future resourcing of this model.

The existing trading hours and lockout times will stay in place to provide certainty to both licensees and patrons and also to give the new measures a chance to work. If the DSP approach works well, there is potential to implement precincts in other areas if needed.

The DSP pilots will inform the development of any future regulatory framework to ensure the Government gets it right.

Actions for Fortitude Valley

The Government is investigating immediate solutions to issues raised about after hours access to Fortitude Valley Railway Station, specifically real time information for commuters wanting to use the Nightlink train services.

The Government will install TV screens outside of Fortitude Valley Railway Station to show real-time information for commuters wanting to use the Nightlink train services.

The opening time for Fortitude Valley Railway Station will be extended from 10 minutes to 20 minutes before the next Nightlink service to make sure all passengers are able to get to the platform in time for their train.

The Government will also:

- set up a public transport hub, in collaboration with Brisbane City Council, in the Valley Mall which will provide information on all transport options including cabs, Nightlink buses and Nightlink trains. The public transport hub will provide the latest timetable information and directions
- improve way-finding signage in the precinct so people know where to go for buses, trains and cabs
- improve secure cab ranks in the precinct to increase capacity and to ensure they are more efficient and can get people into cabs even quicker
- work with BCC to stagger Nightlink bus departure times and investigate changes to the Warner street bus stops in order to minimise crowding around the bus stops.

Legislative action

Government will also amend legislation to support the place-based management model and provide new powers to ban people from specified areas where banning is justified because of the person's behaviour.

Existing police move-on powers will be used for the immediate exclusion for up to 24 hours of people whose behaviour causes concern.

The existing moratorium on extended liquor trading hours, due to expire in September 2010, will be extended until 2013. This will allow sufficient time to assess the effectiveness of the Drink Safe Precinct approach.

Legislation will ensure that suitable quality drinking water is provided free to patrons of licensed venues.

Accreditation fees for responsible service of alcohol trainers will be reduced, to ensure mandatory training is more accessible for those working in the hospitality industry.

Other immediate actions include:

Commissioning research to identify best practice for responsible management of licensed premises, responsible service of alcohol, and training.

Updating Government communication campaigns and continuing education programs in schools to promote a more responsible attitude towards alcohol consumption and, therefore, reduce associated violence.

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Other actions for long-term results

Alcohol-related violence is a complex problem – there is no “quick fix”. For this reason, the Queensland Government is committed to developing an effective liquor regulatory harm minimisation strategy.

The strategy will foster more informed attitudes and behaviours towards drinking, while protecting Queensland's most vulnerable and at-risk populations.

The strategy will be based on approaches adopted in the Queensland Responsible Gambling Strategy, which has been highly successful.

Recommendations not supported

The Queensland Government welcomes and supports the majority of the committee's recommendations. Only ten of 68 are not supported. They are:

- Banning advertising of bottle-shop discounted liquor prices (Recommendation 5).

The Queensland Government supports discouraging takeaway liquor outlets from advertising that encourages customers to buy more alcohol than they originally intended (eg two for one offers).

However, it is always preferable that consumers have more rather than less information about such things as price, availability and conditions of sale. Provision of consumer information allows them to make informed economic choices, which is good for consumers and good for competition.

- Reduction in fees as an incentive for implementing ID scanners and CCTV (Recommendations 20 and 22).

Annual licence fees based on risk were introduced as part of the Queensland liquor reforms in 2008–09 so that industry would contribute to the cost of regulation, including the significant cost to Government in dealing with the misuse and abuse of alcohol. The current fee structure is based on expectations that venues will adopt harm minimisation strategies of this nature, particularly as it is a requirement on licensees to develop risk assessed management plans for their venues.

- Mandating phasing out of regular glass (Recommendations 23–25)

The Government supports the retention of the existing risk-based approach to phasing out the use of glass in high risk venues. Continuing to provide some flexibility to allow the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation to classify some venues as high risk rather than identifying and exempting low risk venues is a more effective and efficient targeted approach.

- Trading Hours and Lockouts (Recommendations 43, 44 and 46).

Research indicates assaults can occur on any day at any time and are most likely to occur whenever the venue is busiest, not just during very late trading hours. It is appropriate to implement more direct harm minimisation initiatives rather than simply relying on reductions to trading hours.

- PolAmb unit trial (Recommendation 47).

The Queensland Government considers that a Police/Ambulance unit trial is not warranted for the following reasons:

- The concept has had limited application and there has been little evaluation of its effectiveness.
- A PolAmb may discourage some persons, such as drug users, from accessing medical help when needed due to fear of police intervention.
- There are workplace health and safety concerns associated with having a single police officer present, without support from another suitably qualified and equipped police officer.

Background

On August 4 2009, the Legislative Assembly asked the Committee to conduct an inquiry into alcohol-related violence, with the following matters to consider:

- Best practice harm minimisation measures in other Australian and international jurisdictions, including specific measures such as restrictions on the use of glass.
- The impact of late opening hours on incidence of alcohol-related violence.
- The flow-on issues resulting from alcohol-related violence for emergency service workers, police and front-line health workers.
- Education campaigns and their role in cultivating effective social change in terms of community attitudes to alcohol consumption.
- The role of parents in influencing the attitudes of young Queenslanders towards alcohol consumption.
- The economic cost of alcohol-related violence.

The terms of reference also required that the committee take public submissions and consult with community leaders, educators, law enforcement, medical professionals and the liquor industry.

The final report identified that, at a state level, improvements can be made to ensure greater public safety, such as addressing transport options for patrons and better enforcement of liquor laws.

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In addition, increased penalties and support for the community and the industry in entertainment precincts were recommended.

At a local Government level, the final report identified improvements that can be made in the facilitation of public amenities, including public toilets and street lighting, along with a commitment to identify and manage entertainment precincts.

Since the release of the final report, significant consultation has taken place with industry and the broader community, including an on-line survey which received about 16,000 responses.

The Queensland Government's response to the committee's final report has, therefore, been informed by such consultation and by the 68 recommendations in the report.

Attachment 1
Response to recommendations

Government response to recommendations from the Final Report of the Parliamentary Law, Justice and Safety Committee Inquiry into alcohol-related violence

Lead agencies	
Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation • Office of Regulatory Policy • Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation	DEEDI ORP OLGR
Department of the Premier and Cabinet	DPC
Queensland Police Service	QPS
Department of Education and Training	DET
Department of Justice and Attorney-General	DJAG
Queensland Health	Health
Department Community Safety (includes Queensland Ambulance Services, Queensland Corrective Services (QCS), Queensland Fire and Rescue Service)	DCS
Department of Communities	DoCs
Department of Transport and Main Roads	TMR

Recommendations	Responsible Agency	Government response
1. That the Queensland Corrective Services facilitate research into the psychological precursors of acts of alcohol-related violence, using persons convicted of assaults using glass and similar offences as case studies.	DCS	Supported. QCS will liaise with universities and Government departments to develop research that improves understanding of alcohol-related violence. This will include consideration of the situational factors for involvement in glassing and similar offences.
2. That the Government consider strategies for determining the effect of violent video games on youth violence, including literature reviews, case studies and investigation.	DoCs	Supported. DoCs will utilise and build upon work undertaken at the Commonwealth level in the development of strategies responding to youth violent offending. This will include analysis of existing literature and case studies on the effect of violent video games on youth violence.
National Preventative Health Strategy		
3. The Committee supports the National Preventative Health Strategy. In order to reduce the health and other burdens caused by alcohol, the Taskforce recommends the long-term goal of reshaping Australia's drinking culture to produce healthier and safer outcomes.	Health	Supported. The Queensland Government will continue to examine its approach to prevention and primary health care, including alcohol and drug treatment services, as consideration is given to the National Health and Hospitals Agreement, the implementation of the National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health, responsibilities as defined in <i>Taking Preventative Action: A Response to Australia: The Healthiest Country by 2020</i> , the proposed establishment of the National Preventive Agency and the impact for delivery of health services.
4. The Committee endorses all recommended actions of the Taskforce and recommends that the Queensland Government work with other States and the Federal Government to implement its recommended actions.	Health	
Advertising		
5. That the Queensland Government ban bottle-shops from advertising discounted liquor prices in Queensland.	ORP (with contribution from Office of Fair Trading)	Not supported. The Government supports discouraging takeaway liquor outlets from advertising which encourages customers to buy more alcohol than they originally intended (eg. two-for-one offers) but does not support banning advertising discounted liquor prices in general. It is always preferable that consumers have more rather than less information about such things as price, availability and conditions of sale. Provision of consumer information allows them to make informed economic choices, which is good for consumers and good for competition. The more effective approach to encouraging responsible promotional practices is via the development of a Liquor Code of Practice within an overall harm minimisation strategy.

Recommendations	Responsible Agency	Government response
<p>6. That the Queensland Government work with the Federal Government to implement further alcohol advertising restrictions.</p>	<p>Health</p>	<p>Supported. The Queensland Government will continue to advocate for a national approach to the regulation of alcohol advertising including through the <i>COAG Binge Drinking Options Paper</i>. The Premier wrote to the former Prime Minister on 9 June 2010 urging priority consideration of this paper, and will follow up the matter with the new Prime Minister.</p>
Need for better data/research/evaluations		
<p>7. That the Government develop a comprehensive and consistent scheme involving all relevant departments for the collection and evaluation of data regarding alcohol-related violence.</p>	<p>DPC</p>	<p>Supported. The need for more comprehensive, appropriate data to inform decision-making has been identified by multiple stakeholders as a key area that must be improved. The Criminal Justice Research area of DPC will convene a whole-of-government working party to develop a framework within which there can be staged improvement of data collection and research analysis to inform policy decision relating to alcohol-related violence. The evaluation of the two-year trial of coordinated place-based management for safer entertainment precincts will inform the ongoing improvement of data about alcohol-related harm.</p>
<p>8. That the Local Government Act be amended so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the effect of establishing a special entertainment precinct may include the ability for licensed premises to apply for extended trading hours. b. as a consequence of establishing a special entertainment precinct, local governments must, in conjunction with the State Government and other relevant stakeholders, develop a local management plan which outlines how support services, transport, security and other public amenities will be provided to ensure the safety of patrons and the local community. 	<p>ORP</p>	<p>Supported in principle. The Government supports a place-based management approach with a primary focus on community safety. The approach will allow for risk-assessed precinct management plans for the areas surrounding licensed venues where issues such as crowding, queuing, traffic, and inadequate amenities (such as poor lighting and toilet facilities) impact upon safety. The approach will involve the participation of all relevant stakeholders to identify the needs of areas such as entertainment precincts for areas with a concentration of late night licensed venues, and other late night trading areas (hubs) for areas surrounding a single large venue. This will deliver local solutions to local problems.</p> <p>The place-based management approach will include enhanced, targeted and flexible police response; improved coordination of security; improved transport and traffic control and coordinated processes between community groups, police and licensed premises; and other matters that impact on the safety and well-being of the community. Stakeholders include licensees from within a potential precinct or hub, local government authorities, security staff, community groups and organisations and State Government agencies such as DCS (including Queensland Fire and Rescue Service and Queensland Ambulance Service), TMR, QPS and DEEDI.</p> <p>The Government, via local stakeholder committees, will commence piloting the implementation of place-based management plans in three priority locations by December 2010. The pilot period will be for two years with an evaluation to occur at the completion of the pilots. This will inform the development of any future regulatory framework to ensure maximum effectiveness.</p> <p>For the purpose of the pilot, DEEDI will facilitate the planning including development of a model for place-based management plans for the local stakeholder committees. A QPS commissioned police officer will be identified as the accountable officer to lead and coordinate operational elements of the management plan, including working with security staff, licensees, community groups, local government authorities and other relevant agencies and organisations.</p>

Recommendations	Responsible Agency	Government response
		It is recognised that in a state as large and diverse as Queensland, “one size does not fit all” and responses must be scaleable and appropriate within a risk-based regulatory framework. This will ensure the place-based management plans deliver practical solutions to local problems.
Resourcing		
9. That the Government provide the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation with additional resources to allow officers to carry out their enforcement roles.	OLGR	Supported in principle. OLGR is currently reviewing resource allocation and operational requirements across the spectrum of industries that it administers.
Resourcing for and availability of increased services (Part one)		
10. That the Government consider all available options to increase the number of police in peak demand times, and increase the numbers of police on patrol in entertainment precincts and areas with a concentration of licensed venues.	QPS	Supported. A targeted policing strategy will be part of the place-based management plans. This will be flexible to ensure appropriate police presence at peak times. Police will have a lead role on the ground to coordinate all elements of the place-based management plans, including working with security staff, licensees, local government councils, community groups and other relevant organisations. The Government will provide ‘kick start’ funding for an increased police presence in pilot precinct areas during peak periods. In Townsville an additional 12 police will bring policing strength to 29. In Fortitude Valley numbers will increase by 24 to 102. In Surfers Paradise it will increase by 20 to 68. An additional 8 Public Safety Response Team (PSRT) officers will also be available to be deployed to Surfers Paradise and Fortitude Valley. The initial funding will provide the opportunity for evaluation of the pilot arrangements and for discussions with industry about arrangements for future resourcing of this model.
11. That the Government provide funding for more community groups to provide these support services around areas with licensed venues to reduce the burden on police, ambulance and Emergency Department staff.	DoCs	Supported. The Government will make initial ‘kick start’ funding available for community groups to provide support services as part of the development of the place-based management plans. As part of the development of each place-based management plan, community groups and other members of the local stakeholder committee will consider which strategies could be effective in responding in that particular area, for example rest and recovery services. The initial funding will provide the opportunity for evaluation of the pilot arrangements and for discussions with industry about arrangements for future resourcing of this model.
12. That the relevant Government departments evaluate programs being funded to assist intoxicated persons, especially in the peak demand times between 11pm – 4am on Fridays and Saturdays in precinct areas and identify any gaps that need to be filled.	DoCs	Supported. The Government will provide initial ‘kick start’ funding for community groups to provide support services that have been successful in other areas, for example rest and recovery services. This is consistent with the current commitment by Government to invest in proven initiatives. The initial funding will provide the opportunity for evaluation of the pilot arrangements and for discussions with industry about arrangements for future resourcing of this model.

Recommendations	Responsible Agency	Government response
<p>13. That the Department of Child Safety have a liaison officer available to assist, especially in peak demand times between 11pm – 4am on Fridays and Saturdays in precinct areas.</p>	DoCs	<p>Supported in principle. The Queensland Government already has in place a 24 hour State-wide service provided by Child Safety Services to assist Queensland Police and community agencies in relation to child protection matters where a child has been harmed or is at risk of harm.</p> <p>The provision of Child Safety Liaison Officers on site in precinct areas would duplicate the existing after-hours response already in place.</p>
Offences and penalties		
<p>14. That the Criminal Code be amended so that the use of glass as a weapon in an assault be a circumstance of aggravation in assault offences.</p>	DJAG	<p>Supported in principle. However, no amendment to the Criminal Code is required because the offence of assault occasioning bodily harm already carries a circumstance of aggravation if the offender is armed with any dangerous or offensive weapon or instrument. This encompasses the use of glass as a weapon.</p> <p>Different levels of harm may result from using glass– from a scratch, to more serious wounds. The Criminal Code has various offences, with different levels of penalties that address the different levels of harm that could result from a glassing; from assault occasioning bodily harm (where all that is required is an injury that interferes with the person’s health or comfort) to wounding (involving breaking the skin) to grievous bodily harm (involving for example, serious disfigurement). Offences commonly indicted for ‘glassing attacks’ are the offences of wounding and grievous bodily harm, however, these offences are not ‘assault’ offences for the purposes of the Criminal Code and therefore are not subject to the recommendation.</p> <p>Finally, to specify a particular object in framing a circumstance of aggravation would be inconsistent with the approach adopted in the Criminal Code and limit the court’s ability to appropriately sentence offenders.</p>
<p>15. That the penalties for alcohol-related offences be increased, and</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a decision as to the appropriate range of penalties for alcohol-related offences be referred to the Sentencing Advisory Council; and 2. the community be involved in establishing the appropriate penalties for crimes involving alcohol-related violence. 	DJAG	<p>Supported in principle. However, no amendment to the <i>Penalties and Sentences Act 1992</i> is required given that the courts already take ‘intoxication’ into account in the sentencing process where relevant and on a case-by-case basis. Developing specific penalties for defined alcohol-related offences would remove the ability of the court to consider the many different circumstances in which alcohol is involved. It must be noted that there are no offences in the Code that constitute ‘alcohol-related’ offences; the issue of intoxication surrounds a variety of offences.</p> <p>The Attorney-General will have the sole responsibility for referring issues for review to the Sentencing Advisory Council. The Attorney-General will consider the recommendation of referral to the Sentencing Advisory Council.</p> <p>It is relevant to note that one of the functions of the Sentencing Advisory Council is to ensure community input into the development of sentencing policy.</p>
<p>16. That the Government give police and the courts power to ban those committing alcohol-related offences from specified areas.</p>	DEEDI/QPS	<p>Supported The Government will develop legislation to provide new powers to ban people from specified areas where banning is justified because of the person’s behaviour.</p> <p>Existing police move-on powers will be used, where appropriate, for the immediate exclusion of people who exhibit concerning behaviour, for up to 24 hours.</p>

Recommendations	Responsible Agency	Government response
		Existing powers of licensees will be used where this is determined to be appropriate by the licensees to ban a person within a venue for a period of time.
Responsible Service of Alcohol		
17. That the Government undertake an evaluation, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, of the delivery of RSA training to security staff and, if required, enhance that training to ensure that all security providers at licensed venues have adequate RSA training along with their other mandatory training requirements.	OLGR / ORP	Supported. The Government will undertake an evaluation of the effectiveness of the current Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) training for security providers. Research into best practice RSA principles will inform the framework for this evaluation.
ID scanners and CCTV		
18. That licensees trading after midnight be encouraged to install ID scanning systems at venues.	OLGR	Supported in principle. The Government acknowledges an ever increasing number of venues, particularly high risk venues, have introduced ID scanners as a security measure, however, it recognises the importance of venues ensuring that appropriate safeguards are put in place to deal with privacy and security of the information stored. The Government will work with stakeholders in developing best practice for the use of ID scanning systems by licensed venues, taking into account the recommendations in the forthcoming Criminology Research Council final report on ID scanners. The Queensland Government will also begin, in late 2010, a staged rollout of a new more secure, more durable and more reliable driver licence card. While the primary purpose of a driver licence is to establish a person's authority to drive, implications of the new driver licence card for ID scanning schemes will be considered as part of the development of these proposals
19. That the Government oversee the rollout process of such systems in consultation with industry and have due regard to privacy issues and matters of natural justice.	OLGR	
20. That there be an incentive by way of a reduction in licence fees for those licensees who mitigate risk in this way.	ORP	Not supported. Annual licence fees based on risk were introduced as part of the Queensland liquor reforms in 2008-09 so that industry would contribute to the cost of regulation, including the significant cost to Government in dealing with the misuse and abuse of alcohol. The current fee structure is based on expectations that venues will adopt harm minimisation strategies of this nature, particularly as it is a requirement on licensees to develop risk assessed management plans for their venues.
21. That licensees trading after midnight be encouraged to install CCTV monitoring at venues both inside and at entrances in consultation with local authorities and the Queensland Police Service.	OLGR	Supported. Affirms the current legislation and policy approach. The chief executive currently has the ability to impose conditions about CCTV installation on a risk assessment basis. This action is available pursuant to the provisions of Sections 107C, 111 and/or 137 of the <i>Liquor Act 1992</i> .
22. That there be an incentive by way of a reduction in licence fees for those licensees who mitigate risk in this way.	ORP	Not supported. Annual licence fees based on risk were introduced as part of the Queensland liquor reforms in 2008-09 so that industry would contribute to the cost of regulation, including the significant cost to Government in dealing with the misuse and abuse of alcohol. The current fee structure is based on expectations that venues will adopt harm minimisation strategies of this nature, particularly as it is a requirement for licensees to develop risk assessed management plans for their venues.
Use of glass in licensed venues		
23. That the Queensland Government mandate a phasing out of regular glass in all venues trading after midnight other than low risk venues, as determined by the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation (OLGR).	OLGR	Not supported. The Government acknowledges that a number of licensees have voluntarily transitioned out of regular glass and encourages other licensees to consider implementing this measure to minimise harm and provide safer drinking environments for their patrons. The current policy allows
24. That the phase-in period be two years	ORP	

Recommendations	Responsible Agency	Government response
from commencement.	ORP	high risk venues, which have low risk sections such as dining areas that have not had adverse compliance histories, to be exempted from high risk classification so they may continue to use regular glass. Continuing to provide some flexibility to allow OLGR to classify some venues as high risk rather than identifying and exempting low risk venues is a more effective and efficient approach. This approach enables high risk venues to be targeted which contributes to reductions in violence and does not disadvantage those operators who have been able to provide a safe drinking environment for their patrons.
25. Venues that have not moved over to glass substitution by the end of 2010 should be required to provide a management plan of how the risk is being managed until the full transition.	ORP	
Liquor licensing and regulatory processes		
26. That all licensed venues be required to make water available to patrons free of charge at all opening times.	ORP	Supported. The Government proposes to make it mandatory that fresh drinking water is provided free at bar counters. Many licensed venues readily provide water free of charge as part of their commitment to the responsible service of alcohol.
27. That the Government undertake an appropriate independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the mandatory training requirements for staff involved in the supply and service, and retail sales (such as detached bottle-shops) of alcohol, and that evaluation be in consultation with employees of the liquor industry who have undertaken the training.	OLGR	Supported. The Government will undertake an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Responsible Management of Licensed Venues (RMLV) training and Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) training to ensure the training courses continue to be effective and up-to-date. Research into best practice RSA principles will inform the framework for this evaluation.
28. That the Government provide for the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation to include the use of an RSA Marshall as a condition of licences where appropriate, for late night and large capacity venues.	OLGR	Supported. The Government supports the imposition of a condition regarding the use of a responsible service of alcohol (RSA) marshal following a risk-based assessment by the chief executive.
29. That there be legislative amendment to ensure a greater emphasis on community consultation and opinion in the application process, with a licence to be granted only if, on balance overall, the grant of the licence will benefit the community.	ORP	Supported in principle. It is considered that the <i>Liquor Act 1992</i> (as amended following the Government's 2008 liquor reforms) already provides significant opportunities for community consultation and opinion in the application process
30. That a definition of 'amenity' by reference to elements such as noise and other criteria in the Act, transport, nuisance, the lifestyle of the community and the nature of the precinct be inserted in the <i>Liquor Act 1992</i> .	ORP	Supported. The Government supports this recommendation as a definition of 'amenity' would provide further clarification for both applicants and decision-makers during the application and decision-making process.
31. That conferences be made a mandatory part of the process of considering applications for all licences under the Act where an objection to an application is made.	ORP	Supported in principle. Under the current liquor risk-based regulatory framework the chief executive can hold conferences if required. The current approach seeks to ensure that objections are properly considered but that at the same time there are no unnecessary delays in the decision-making process.
32. That the Government ensure that necessary legislative or enforcement steps are taken to address issues of premises with restaurant licences trading as nightclubs.	OLGR	Supported. Affirms the current legislation and policy approach. The <i>Liquor Act 1992</i> currently has provisions for the chief executive to take disciplinary action against a licensee who is not trading in accordance with their principal activity. The outcome of such actions can range from monetary fines, the imposition of licence conditions or cancellation of the licence.
33. That the Government ensure that necessary legislative or enforcement steps are taken to ensure proper regulation of practices such as booze cruises and pub and club tours.	OLGR	Supported. Affirms the current legislation and policy approach. In 2008, the <i>Liquor Act 1992</i> was amended to specifically exclude the licensing of 'party buses', thus not allowing for the sale and supply of liquor on these vehicles. Therefore as these buses are not providing liquor, they do not require any approval from OLGR. Organisers of cruises are subject to the Liquor Act if they supply liquor, however, organisers are not required to be licensed if they are only transporting participants between licensed venues. The

Recommendations	Responsible Agency	Government response
		licensees of the premises visited on 'booze' cruises and tours must sell and supply alcohol in accordance with the Liquor Act and their licence conditions. The Liquor Act prohibits supply of liquor to a person who is unduly intoxicated or disorderly.
34. That there be legislative amendment to have a 'fit and proper person' criterion included in factors to be considered for all licence applications.	OLGR	Supported. This recommendation affirms the intent of current legislation as under the <i>Liquor Act 1992</i> the chief executive may only grant a new licence or permit if satisfied the applicant is a 'fit and proper person' to hold the licence or permit. However, it is proposed to amend the definition of 'fit and proper person' to make it clear that the suitability of an applicant for a licence is assessed against the risk of the operations of the venue. This is consistent with the risk-based regulatory approach in Queensland.
35. The Committee endorses the liquor accord concept, recommends its further development, and encourages Government agencies and local authorities to support and provide assistance to accords where possible.	OLGR	Supported. Affirms the current legislation and policy approach. As part of the 2008 liquor reforms, the <i>Liquor Act 1992</i> was amended to recognise the important role liquor accords play in promoting localised, responsible practices in relation to the sale and supply of liquor at licensed premises; minimising harm caused by alcohol misuse and associated violence; and minimising alcohol-related disturbances or public disorder. The Government is committed to liquor accords as an effective and sustainable localised approach to dealing with the misuse of alcohol.
Resourcing for and availability of increased services (Part two)		
36. The Government look at all options to increase the availability of public transport across the State to remove large numbers of patrons of licensed venues in a safe and efficient manner, particularly in entertainment precincts.	TMR	Supported in principle. The provision of public and private transport to move patrons in a safe and efficient manner will be considered as part of the development of a coordinated place-based management approach.
37. That the opportunity to utilise weekend operational taxis be fully investigated with a view to increasing the number of taxi services during the evenings and early mornings at weekends and for special events.	TMR	TMR will take a lead role in working with relevant stakeholders in developing transport solutions as part of the place-based management approach.
38. That the Government increase the number of secure taxi ranks to cover all areas with a concentration of licensed venues.	TMR	TMR will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of current transport solutions including taxis, Nightlink bus and Nightlink rail services, and amend according to demand on an ongoing basis.
39. That QR Passenger maximise the opening times of the Fortitude Valley Station to allow members of the public to safely wait for trains and utilise the public amenities.	TMR	Additional police numbers in the precinct areas as a whole will also contribute towards safer taxi cab ranks.
40. It is recommended that Queensland Rail amend timetables to reflect and accommodate any change in licensed venue trading hours adopted by Government to provide appropriate train services to disperse patrons of licensed venues safely and efficiently.	TMR	Specifically in Fortitude Valley the government will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install TV screens outside of Fortitude Valley Railway Station to show real-time information for commuters wanting to use the Nightlink train services. • Extend the opening time for Fortitude Valley Railway Station from 10 minutes to 20 minutes before the next Nightlink service to make sure all passengers are able to get to the platform in time for their train. • Set up a public transport hub in the Valley Mall which will provide information on all transport options including taxis, Nightlink buses and Nightlink trains. The public transport hub will provide the latest timetable information and directions.

Recommendations	Responsible Agency	Government response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greatly improve way-finding signage in the precinct so people know where to go for buses, trains and cabs. • Improve secure cab ranks in the precinct to increase capacity and to ensure they are more efficient and can get people in to cabs even quicker. • Work with BCC to stagger Nightlink bus departure times and will investigate changes to the Warner street bus stops in order to minimise crowding around the bus stops.
Trading hours and lockout		
41. That standard on-premises trading hours be 10am to midnight.	ORP	<p>Supported. Affirms the current legislation and policy approach. Standard on-premises trading hours are 10am to midnight. The Government does not propose to change the existing trading hours. It will not consider changes until the place-based management plans have been trialled and evaluated.</p>
42. Maximum hours for detached bottle-shops are to be 10am to 9pm.	ORP	<p>Supported in principle. The standard trading hours under the <i>Liquor Act 1992</i> are 10am-midnight with the ability for licensees to apply to trade from 9am, strictly on a demonstrated community need basis. The Government proposes to change standard trading hours for liquor sold for takeaway to 10am to 10pm but retain the ability for licensees to apply to have their takeaway outlet trade from 9am strictly on a demonstrated community need basis. It is also proposed for licensees to be able to apply to sell liquor for takeaway from 10pm-midnight also strictly on a demonstrated community need basis.</p> <p>This change will only affect new applications for licences or when a licence is transferred to another person. There will be no change in trading hours for licensees who currently have approved trading hours outside of the 10 a.m to 10 p.m. standard hours.</p>
43. Extended trading hours for venues outside special entertainment precincts to be no later than 1am Sundays to Thursdays and no later than 3am Fridays and Saturdays.	ORP	<p>Not supported. The Government currently proposes to retain the status quo for closing times at least until the place-based management approach has been trialled and evaluated (refer to proposed Government response to recommendation 8).</p>
44. Extended trading hours for venues in special entertainment precincts to be no later than 2am Sundays to Thursdays and no later than 4am Fridays and Saturdays.	ORP	<p>Research indicates that assaults can occur on any day at any time and are most likely to occur whenever the venue is busiest and not just in very late trading hours. Accordingly, to address alcohol-related violence, it is appropriate to implement more direct harm minimisation initiatives rather than simply relying on reductions to trading hours. There is significant evidence that a coordinated suite of strategies targeted to the particular circumstances of an area is most effective in reducing alcohol-related violence at the local level. However, if the place-based management approach proves ineffective in reducing the level of alcohol-related violence, then the Government may consider reducing trading hours.</p> <p>It is proposed to extend the current moratorium on extended trading hours, which is due to end in September 2010 to 2013. This will allow sufficient time to develop and trial place-based management plans and undertake an evaluation of the effectiveness of the plans in reducing the incidence of alcohol-related violence in local areas.</p>

Recommendations	Responsible Agency	Government response
		Consideration will also be given to amending the <i>Liquor Act 1992</i> to strengthen the risk-based criteria for applications for late night trading.
45. The current provisions for occasional extensions beyond these times on certain special event days such as New Year's Eve and local events should remain.	ORP	Supported. Affirms current legislation and policy approach. New Year's Eve is a universally recognised special day and is celebrated all around the world and is the only special day under the <i>Liquor Act 1992</i> which has the automatic entitlement to extend ordinary trading hours from midnight and then only to 2am.
46. That a 2am lockout apply to all licensed venues. (Earlier voluntary lockouts are to be still available.)	ORP	Not supported. Lockouts are intended as a crime prevention strategy with the primary intention of reducing the migration of patrons between licensed premises and providing greater control over patron behaviour in the very late night drinking environment. The development and implementation of place-based management plans (refer to proposed Government response to recommendation 8) is also aimed at assisting with maintaining law and order which includes the safe movement of people in a precinct. As part of the evaluation of place-based management plans, consideration will also be given to evidence on the contribution of the lockout to minimising harm in the local area and whether it is more appropriate for lockouts to be considered as part of a suite of harm minimisation measures where measures are developed and adapted to suit local conditions.
Workforce Issues		
47. That the Government trial and undertake an evaluation of a PolAmb unit in Queensland; the trial should include the unit being deployed in entertainment precincts and areas with a high concentration of licensed venues, and at major events.	DCS	Not supported. The Queensland Government considers that a PolAmb unit trial is not warranted for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is already a considerable police presence in entertainment precincts and areas with a high concentration of licensed venues, such as Fortitude Valley, and at major events. • The PolAmb concept has had limited application and there has been little evaluation of its effectiveness. • A PolAmb may discourage some patients, such as drug users, from accessing medical help when needed, due to a fear of police intervention. • There are workplace health and safety concerns associated with having a single police officer present, without support from another suitably qualified and equipped police officer.
48. That the Government ensures a swift roll-out of self-defence training for all ambulance workers. This should include refresher courses at appropriate intervals.	DCS	Supported. The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) is rolling out the Situational Awareness for Everyday Encounters program to all operational paramedics. This conflict de-escalation program, which is based on current QPS models, includes training on tactical communication, situational awareness, conflict dynamics and threat assessment. All operational paramedics are expected to have been trained by December 2010 and refresher courses will be provided at appropriate intervals.
49. That, in order to provide a higher level of personal security, the Government consider implementing individual duress alarms on ambulance workers' radios, akin to the duress button already in place in vehicles.	DCS	Supported in principle. The safety of QAS officers is paramount. They are currently assisted by the "Situations involving violence and crew safety" Standing Operating Procedure (SOP), which applies in situations where there is the potential for violence. Under the SOP, where there is a clear risk of significant physical assault to operational staff, they may be directed to stand off at a nearby safe location until the scene has been declared safe by police.
50. That the Government make any legislative change necessary to ensure the safety of emergency service workers when	DCS	Supported. This reflects current legislative and Government policy that ensures the safety of emergency service workers

Recommendations	Responsible Agency	Government response
dealing with the public.		when dealing with the public, including (as noted in the Committee's report) a specific offence added to the <i>Criminal Code Act 1899</i> in 2008, dealing with assaults on emergency services workers.
51. That Emergency Services Queensland provide support and an effective mechanism for reporting abuse and violence towards staff during the course of their duty. This should enforce the message of zero tolerance, and that abuse is not part of the job and should be reported. Any reporting mechanism should be streamlined and simple to complete in minimal time so as not to interfere with the primary role of these workers.	DCS	Supported. DCS officers (excluding QCS) have access to the Safety Health and Environment (SHE) system to report workplace health and safety incidents, including those involving violence. SHE is accessible on DCS computers, from staff members' home computers via the internet, and via verbal and hard copy reporting. A manual process is currently in place for QCS, however rollout of the SHE system has commenced.
52. That the Aggressive Behaviour Management program in Queensland Health be rolled-out as a matter of priority to all front-line health staff.	Health	Supported. Since 2006, Queensland Health has spent approximately \$12 million across all health districts to support occupational violence prevention training and activities, with a total of 15,696 staff trained in the last 12 months.
53. That Queensland Health provide support and an effective mechanism for reporting abuse and violence towards staff during the course of their duty. This is to include the message of zero tolerance, and that abuse is not part of the job and should be reported. The reporting mechanism should be streamlined and simple to complete in minimal time so as not to interfere with the primary role of these workers.	Health	
54. That Queensland Health review and amend, as far [as] is practicable in the health care setting, its collection of data on assaults on staff where alcohol or drugs are a factor.	Health	
Resourcing for and availability of increased services (Part three)		
55. That the Department of Child Safety provide a 24 hour service to provide care to those children and young people who come to the attention of the police, whether intoxicated or not, until a responsible adult is able to take care of them.	DoCs	Supported in principle. The Queensland Government provides a targeted risk-based 24-hour State-wide response through Child Safety Services for children who have been harmed or who are at risk of harm. This service is available to child safety clients, members of the public and non-government and Government agencies, including QPS in relation to child protection matters. Child Safety Services will continue to intervene where a child is at risk of harm through this 24-hour service.
56. That, to reduce any burden on police, the Government provide adequate funding for services provided for adults with drug and/or alcohol problems in public places.	DoCs	Supported in principle. The role of drug and alcohol services will be considered as part of the development of a coordinated place-based management approach.
Education and cultural change		
57. That mandatory, ongoing education on the health impacts of alcohol be provided in all Queensland schools, commencing in primary schools.	DET	Supported in principle. The Years 1-9 Health and Physical Education Key Learning Area (KLA) Essential Learnings currently include the delivery of alcohol education (this point is applicable to recommendations 57-61). The development of Health and Physical Education as part of the Australian Curriculum is scheduled to occur in 2011-2012. MCEECDYA (April 2010) has agreed to the prioritisation of HPE within Phase 3 of the curriculum development plan and the inclusion of HPE as a core learning requirement for all students in each year from P(K)-10. All Queensland education sectors will be involved and participate in the consultation process for the HPE curriculum advocating for the inclusion of ongoing alcohol education.

Recommendations	Responsible Agency	Government response
<p>58. That the Government implement a consistent, minimum-standard of education on alcohol for Queensland students. This minimum standard should provide a solid base for alcohol education on which schools can build with additional current, effective educational programs, resources and tools.</p>	DET	<p>Supported in principle. Education Queensland accepts that it has an important contribution to make to the public health goals of preventing the uptake of harmful drug use and reducing the harmful effects of legal and illicit drugs to individuals and society.</p> <p>The Australian Curriculum will be consultatively developed and provide a consistent minimum standard of education for Health and Physical Education P(K) – 10. The Queensland Studies Authority will support programs through the development of exemplars and materials.</p>
<p>59. That the Government undertake an ongoing evaluation of additional alcohol education programs available to schools to assess whether the programs available are effective and remain current.</p>	DET	<p>Supported. Principals can select additional alcohol education programs from external providers that are accredited in accordance with SCM-PR-010 External Programs presented in State Schools. The criteria for accreditation of external programs include accuracy and effectiveness. The Department will review SCM-PR-010 to provide clearer advice to schools and ensure an ongoing evaluation of additional alcohol education programs.</p>
<p>60. That the Government collect data on which Queensland schools provide alcohol and drug education, and on which programs are used to deliver this education to students.</p>	DET	<p>Supported. Principals in state schools can select additional alcohol education programs from external providers that are accredited in accordance with SCM-PR-010 External Programs presented in State Schools. An e-survey or similar method will be developed to collect relevant data from schools.</p>
<p>61. That, in order to foster a positive cultural change in attitudes towards alcohol consumption, the Government provide more training and clear guidance to schools in effective alcohol education delivery, effective program selection.</p>	DET	<p>Supported. The Queensland Government recognises the importance of school-based drug and alcohol education programs and will continue to support the delivery of effective programs. The department in conjunction with the Queensland Studies Authority will review its professional development program for principals in line with the implementation of the Health and Physical Education Australian Curriculum.</p>
Education and social marketing		
<p>62. That the Government ensures that any Queensland based social media campaigns, as part of a suite of measures to address alcohol consumption and alcohol-related violence, are consistent with the National Binge Drinking Strategy to provide a clear, consistent message.</p>	DPC	<p>Supported. A social education and awareness initiative project will encompass the broader work being progressed around the Government response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into alcohol-related violence. This will include considering appropriate community engagement on future social awareness raising options and key messages.</p>
<p>63. That the Government evaluate the benefit of community groups messages and where appropriate provide funding to resource those organisations whose message fit within the overall framework for alcohol and violence prevention for application to the wider community.</p>	DPC	
<p>64. That the Queensland Government's Don't Kid Yourself campaign continue and be updated and developed to ensure it reaches the target audience and is developed in light of the National Binge Drinking Strategy to provide a clear, consistent message.</p>	ORP	<p>Supported. The campaign to be run again with a greater emphasis on a call for action and taking into account the National Binge Drinking Strategy. However, going forward it would be timely to explore alternative campaigns to avoid message fatigue and to maximise behavioural change in the target market. It would also be appropriate to consider the Don't Kid Yourself campaign (DKY) in the context of a broader whole-of-government approach to addressing cultural and behavioural change in regard to the responsible consumption of alcohol. In this regard, outcomes from the DKY will also inform the social and education awareness initiative project that will encompass the broader work being progressed around the Government response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into alcohol-related violence.</p>

Recommendations	Responsible Agency	Government response
Offences and penalties		
<p>65. That the parents or guardians of a minor up to age 16 fined for an alcohol-related offence also be liable for that fine.</p>	DoCs	<p>Supported in principle. The Queensland Government recognises the importance of young people taking responsibility for their actions as well as recognising parental responsibility through specific provisions already outlined in the <i>Youth Justice Act 1992</i>. This approach ensures a Court is able to order a parent to attend proceedings involving their child and imposing a fine if they fail to do so. Also, a Court can order paying a victim's compensation if it considers that a parent has contributed to an offence by not adequately supervising their child.</p>
<p>66. That young people aged [ef] 16 and over, who receive a fine for alcohol-related offences, remain liable for that fine after attaining the age of 18. This should have adverse consequences, such as the inability to obtain a driver's licence, should it remain unpaid at the time of application for such a licence.</p>	DJAG	<p>Supported in principle. The Queensland Government already has a number of systems in place to deal with penalties even after a child becomes an adult. The Government will undertake further consideration and analysis of the current systems for fines imposed upon young people (particularly in the case of a child who becomes an adult).</p>
<p>67. That the Government provide for relevant support services where a young person (under 18) repeatedly disregards the law with regard to alcohol-related offences. They should attend, along with their parents or guardians, suitable support services to address the behaviour which should provide education, advice, support and techniques for the parent and the young person to address the underlying issues.</p>	DoCs	<p>Supported. This is consistent with the current legislation and policy approach. Examples of services which the Queensland Government administers or contributes funding to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the CHART program • Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs Services available to young people with substance-misuse issues serving community-based orders • Hothouse – a drug and alcohol service available to people on youth detention orders in Brisbane • Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Withdrawal Service which provides residential services operated by the Mater Hospital.
Education and cultural change		
<p>68. That the Government ensure that the Party Safe information is disseminated to all students in high schools and their parents, and that police promote and encourage the use of Party Safe.</p>	QPS	<p>Supported. QPS will continue to support the Party Safe initiative and will consult with agencies to coordinate effective dissemination of the information for all students.</p>