

The Chairman
Liquor Act Review Committee
PO Box 437
WEST PERTH WA 6872

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: Review of the Liquor Licensing Act

The Men's Advisory Network (MAN) is the peak body for service providers, organisations and individuals concerned with men's health, wellbeing and other issues affecting males of all ages in Western Australia. It receives financial support from the Department of Health.

Our comments relate to item 1 a) of the Terms of Reference: i.e. the minimisation of harm or ill health caused to people, or any group of people, due to the use of liquor.

This should be the over-riding criterion that is used by the liquor licensing authorities when making all of their decisions.

The abuse of alcohol causes major problems to the individual's physical and mental health, their family, friends, work colleagues and has a serious social impact on the wider community.

Other agencies will be able to provide details on the harm caused by the excess consumption of alcohol by some people.

Revenue gained from the sale of liquor should be used to fund further research into these factors.

The link between extended trading hours, alcohol consumption and the use of illicit drugs and the problems arising from this should be investigated.

Additional efforts need to be made to educate the general public, with particular emphasis on identified problem target groups, regarding the responsible consumption of alcohol.

Funding for the research and education could be through Healthways with the revenue coming from licensing fees and taxes on the sale of alcohol.

One specific suggestion relates to standard drinks served in licensed premises. Currently there is a huge inconsistency in the amount of wine served, ranging between 100 ml to 180 ml of wine in a glass. It needs to be standardised at 100ml (i.e. 1 standard drink) with all glasses marked with 100 ml. This would assist in educating people to drink responsibly by allowing them to know what a standard drink of wine was. This is already possible due to the standard sizes of the various beer glasses and serves of spirits.

Please give me a call if you require any further information on the issues raised.

Yours truly,

Gary Bryant
Executive Officer
9 December 2004