

## BINGE DRINKING DESTROYS FAMILIES

### Position:

- FAMILY FIRST believes Australia has a binge drinking problem which is killing Australians, particularly young Australians. Alcohol is a part of life and social drinking is fine, but we must change our culture which celebrates alcohol and accepts drunkenness and drink-driving;
- FAMILY FIRST believes we must adopt a policy of zero tolerance to binge drinking and create a culture of responsible drinking;
- FAMILY FIRST believes binge drinking is a major social and health issue. As a community we have tackled the road toll, the drug toll and the smoking toll. Now it is time to get tough on booze and tackle the alcohol toll, to save lives;
- FAMILY FIRST is horrified by the alcohol toll statistics: alcohol causes almost 4300 deaths and costs almost 400,000 hospital bed days per year, and alcohol is a factor in up to one in five road deaths. The cost to the economy has been estimated at \$7.6 billion which is also huge;
- FAMILY FIRST does not believe a shock campaign is sufficient. Nor can we leave it to the alcohol industry to be more responsible. State and federal governments must act to tackle a problem which is out of control.

### Actions:

- FAMILY FIRST has a plan to reduce Australia's alcohol toll, and has introduced the *Alcohol Toll Reduction Bill 2007* into Parliament to require health information labels on all alcohol products; restrict TV and radio alcohol advertising to after 9pm and before 5am to stop alcohol being marketed to young people; require all alcohol ads to be pre-approved by a government body; and ban alcohol ads which are aimed at children or which link drinking to personal, business, social, sporting, sexual or other success