

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 excessive alcohol consumption and accepts drunkenness and drink-driving as an ordinary part of life;
- FAMILY FIRST believes we must adopt a policy of zero tolerance to binge drinking and create a culture of responsible drinking. Binge drinking has been the cause of much drunken violence on our streets and has put the safety of ordinary Australians who want to enjoy a safe night out at risk;
- 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 3,000 deaths each year 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 \$16 billion which is also huge;
- FAMILY FIRST does not believe a simple tax hike on alcohol products will solve Australia's binge drinking problem. Nor can we leave it to the alcohol industry to be more responsible. State and federal governments must act to tackle this problem which is spiraling out of control through a range of measures.

Actions:

- FAMILY FIRST will set up a National Alcohol Commission to deal specifically with the issue of reducing Australia's alcohol toll, We already have the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) for tackling our road toll and QUIT for lowering the tobacco toll, now we need a dedicated body to address the alarming alcohol toll;

- FAMILY FIRST has a plan to reduce Australia's alcohol toll, and has introduced the *Alcohol Toll Reduction Bill* into Parliament to put health warning labels on all alcohol products; restrict TV and radio alcohol advertising to after 9pm and before 5am to stop alcohol being marketed to children; 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;
- FAMILY FIRST will restrict the sale of takeaway alcohol to between the hours of 7am to midnight. Any bottle shop caught trading outside of these hours will be fined \$10,000 per offence. Family First has introduced the *Responsible Takeaway Alcohol Hours Bill* to give effect to these measures;
- FAMILY FIRST successfully negotiated \$5 million from the Federal Government to be spent on preventative health measures such as targeted social awareness campaigns to reduce Australia's alcohol toll and will seek further funding for these measures;
- FAMILY FIRST will tighten secondary supply laws to stop people (other than parents) from giving alcohol to underage drinkers;
- FAMILY FIRST will increase the ratio of security staff to patrons in nightclubs to help reduce alcohol fuelled violence and create a more safe environment for patrons;
- FAMILY FIRST will do more to promote alcohol free events in order to give younger people a viable alternative to binge drinking.