

Program Overview

Local communities are frequently beset with resolving competing demands. The tension between these demands is nowhere more evident than when it involves alcohol, not only in and around licensed premises, but also in public places and spaces, parks and sporting venues, where BYO drinks are the order of the day. Add into this mix the needs of other businesses and residents, and it sometimes becomes "too hard".

The issues which councils are responsible for include planning, community amenity, noise, density and the "right" mix of businesses, and venue management, while other sectors are responsible for the policing, emergency management, and health management issues arising from alcohol-related incidents and antisocial behaviours.

The aims of this three-part seminar are to identify the local impacts of the use and misuse of alcohol and the possible solutions.

In the first part of the seminar, three eminent speakers will present different perspectives on the principal issues involved.

- In the second part, the audience is invited to participate in a facilitated workshop involving a hypothetical scenario in a busy activity centre to identify and prioritise the local impacts and possible solutions.
- The endpoint is to agree on three critical issues which can be referred to the Local Government Drug Issues Forum for further development and which communities can use in developing local policies, education campaigns and action plans.

The Speakers

Michael Livingston, a Research Fellow in the AERF Centre for Alcohol Policy Research at Turning Point Drug and Alcohol Centre, will present on increasing alcohol outlet density. This issue has become an increasing focus for policymakers and researchers and reflects attempts by local and state governments to retain control of licensing policy in the face of national pressure to liberalise licensing regulation. Michael will review recent advances in both Australian and international evidence linking outlet density to harm.

Dr John Wiggers, Director of Population Health at Hunter New England Health, and a Senior Lecturer at the University of Newcastle, led the development of an intersectoral initiative between police and health practitioners – the Alcohol Linking program - to reduce the incidence of assault, drink-driving, and domestic violence. John will describe the elements of the program, which has been rolled out in communities across NSW, and the evaluation results.

Dr John Winston Toumbourou, BA (Hons), MA, PhD, is Professor and Chair in Health Psychology at Deakin University and a Senior Research Fellow within the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute at the Centre for Adolescent Health. John is a founding member and the current Chair of the College of Health Psychologists within the Australian Psychological Society. John's interests include evaluation, drug abuse prevention and treatment, and the role of community, family and peer groups in adolescent health promotion. He has published over 180 articles and 50 referred journal papers. In 2005 he was awarded a 5-year VicHealth Senior Research Fellowship for his research program focusing on healthy youth development. In 2006 he received the award for International Collaborative Research from the Society for Prevention Research recognising his work with the longitudinal International Youth Development Study.



**The Victorian Safe Communities Network, the
Local Government Drug Issues Forum and the
City of Melbourne
invite you to attend a seminar**

**ALCOHOL AFTER DARK: THE CRITICAL
ISSUES**

to be held on

Wednesday 16 May 2007

9:00am to 12:30pm with a light lunch afterwards

at

Melbourne Town Hall

Please put this date in your diary now!!

Where	Program	How to get there
Swanston Hall Room Melbourne Town Hall Corner Swanston & Collins Streets Enter via ground level entrance from Swanston Walk at the front of Town Hall on left of main entry	8.30am - 9.00am - registration 9.00am - 10.30am - presentations 10.30am - 11.00am - morning tea 11.00am - 12.00pm - hypothetical 12.00pm - 12.15pm - feedback 12.15pm - 12.30pm - VSCN AGM 12.30pm - 1.00pm - light lunch Note: the final program will be circulated in mid-April	Public transport is freely available into the CBD Limited parking is available in carparks close to the Town Hall

Please RSVP to Barbara by 4 May - vscn.vscn@rch.org.au or

9345 5193A brief AGM and election of office-bearers will be conducted for VSCN members at the conclusion of formal proceedings