

Government Response to the Parliamentary Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee Inquiry into Strategies to Reduce Assaults in Public Places in Victoria

| Recommendation | Response | Comments |
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| <p>Recommendation 1 (Page 162) The Committee recommends that an offence of assaulting, obstructing, hindering or delaying a hospital, or health worker or licensed security guard or security worker in the execution or performance of their duties, be enacted in Victoria.</p> | <p>Accept in principle</p> | <p>The Government will legislate to introduce additional statutory jail sentences for offenders who seriously assault an emergency worker while they are engaged in the performance of their duties.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 2 (Page 162) The Committee recommends that the Sentencing Advisory Council of Victoria work with Magistrates and Judges to examine the type of factors that should be taken into account in the sentencing of assault crimes in the same way they have developed sentencing guides on breaches of domestic violence orders.</p> | <p>Accept in principle</p> | <p>The Government is committed to ensuring adequate sentencing in response to violent offences, as highlighted by the passage of the <i>Crimes Amendment (Gross Violence Offences) Act 2013</i>. That Act introduces two new offences of intentionally or recklessly causing serious injury in circumstances of gross violence into the <i>Crimes Act 1958</i>. Gross violence offences involve circumstances such as where an offender has intentionally or recklessly caused a serious injury by pre-planning the attack, by the use of a weapon, acting in company with other offenders, or continuing to attack an incapacitated victim. Adult offenders who are found guilty of these offences will be liable to a term of imprisonment with a non-parole period of four years, unless special reasons exist.</p> <p>The legislation was developed with reference to advice from the Sentencing Advisory Council (SAC). The SAC consulted with Magistrates and Judges in the preparation of its report, which was released on 10 November 2011 to identify factors that distinguish more serious assaults from less serious assaults.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 3 (Page 192) The Committee recommends that Victoria Police liaise with the Australian Security Industry Association Limited (ASIAL) to examine ways in which the Police and the</p> | <p>Accept in principle</p> | <p>The Government has a Ministerial Advisory Council, the Victorian Security Industry Advisory Council (VSIAC), which is comprised of members from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASIS International • ASIAL • Australian Institute of Professional Investigators (AIPi) |

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| <p>private security industry can collaborate more closely and work more effectively in addressing public order and security issues.</p> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crowd Control Employers Association Inc (CCEA) • National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA) • Security Trainers Association (STA) • Victoria Police • Liquor Hospitality & Miscellaneous Union (LHMU) • Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) • Victorian Security Institute (VSI). <p>The Government believes that, in seeking to identify opportunities for close and effective collaboration to address public order and security issues, liaison should take place with VSIAC, which incorporates ASIAL, among other industry stakeholders.</p> <p>Any collaboration that involves the exchange of information must be considered by the appropriate Victoria Police and external oversight bodies and must adhere to the requirements of the <i>Information Privacy Act 2000</i> and Commissioner for Law Enforcement Data Security (CLEDS) Standards.</p> <p>Consideration of possible future initiatives, such as cultural competency training and sexual and gender diversity training for security industry licensees, can be discussed with VSIAC.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 4 (Page 193) The Committee recommends that the Victorian Government undertake research into community policing programs in Victoria to identify best practice models that could be used across the State. These programs should be culturally sensitive.</p> | <p>Accept in principle</p> | <p>The Government acknowledges that this is an operational matter for Victoria Police and notes that a mapping exercise has recently been conducted on Victoria Police's programs.</p> <p>The need for improved community engagement has been recognised by Victoria Police's development of a <i>Connecting the Community</i> model, which focuses on a greater community consultation approach and identifies major community themes. Current community policing initiatives in Victoria include programs to address the needs of people with substance abuse issues, people with mental health issues, vulnerable young people, Indigenous Australians, people from culturally diverse communities and international students.</p> |

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| <p>Recommendation 5 (Page 193) The Committee recommends that the Victorian Government review the current training Victoria Police officers receive in relation to working with vulnerable young people from diverse cultural and social backgrounds (including refugees, young people with a disability or mental illnesses, homeless and Indigenous young people), with a view to enhancing and/or extending that training, if necessary.</p> | <p>Accept in principle</p> | <p>The Government acknowledges that this is an operational matter for Victoria Police and notes that Victoria Police has undertaken significant improvement in its training in dealing with vulnerable people.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 6 (Page 215) The Committee recommends that the Victorian Government amend Clause 52.27 of the Victoria Planning Provisions to require packaged outlets to obtain a planning permit from the relevant local government authority.</p> | <p>Accept</p> | <p>The Government announced in its election commitments its intention to require a planning permit for applications for packaged liquor licences. Amendments to the Victoria Planning Provisions were made in April 2011 to implement this commitment.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 7 (Page 215) The Committee recommends that the Victoria Government amends Clause 52.27 of the Victoria Planning Provisions to include: 'To ensure that the impact of the licensed premises on the health, safety and wellbeing of the community is considered' as one of the purposes of the provision.</p> | <p>Accept in principle</p> | <p>The current purpose of the Victoria Planning Provisions is to ensure that the impact of the licensed premises on the amenity of the surrounding area is considered. The Government is of the view that the existing provisions ensure that the impact of the licensed premises on the safety and wellbeing of the community is adequately considered when Councils make decisions about planning permits for licensed premises. Government will investigate whether to extend the provision to include assessment of the impact on health.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 8 (Page 215) The Committee recommends that the Victorian Government amend the <i>Liquor Control Reform Act 1998</i>, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • include protecting and improving public health and safety as a primary objective of the Act; and | <p>Under Review</p> | <p>The Government will give consideration to improving public health and safety as an objective of the Act. The Act currently has harm minimisation as its primary objective. Harm in this context includes health and safety issues as well as alcohol-related violence.</p> <p>The Government has stated in its policy commitments that prevention of harm is a principle that will underpin its approach to liquor licensing, and in <i>Reducing the Alcohol and Drug Toll: Victoria's Plan 2013-2017</i> that effective liquor regulation can contribute to reducing the whole</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> widen the grounds for objections to the granting of a liquor licence, to include social harms and harm to public health and safety. | <p>Under review</p> | <p>range of harms from alcohol. The Government will give further consideration to both the objects of the Act and the grounds for objection to licences through its implementation of these commitments, including the integrated Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR).</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 9 (Page 215) The Committee recommends that the Victorian Government undertake a review of the impact of the growth and nature of packaged liquor outlets on local communities with a view to regulating the density of outlets.</p> | <p>Accept in principle</p> | <p>Currently, the Victoria Planning Provisions require the consideration of the number and type of licensed premises in an area by local councils when making decisions relating to licensed premises. Additionally, the VCGLR must have regard to the Decision Making Guidelines on Cumulative Impact.</p> <p>In addition, the Government has implemented its commitment to require a planning permit for applications for packaged liquor licenses. This commitment was delivered in April 2011.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 10 (Page 216) The Committee recommends that the Victorian Government, through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), supports the development of national guidelines on alcohol outlet density to address cross border issues.</p> | <p>Under review</p> | <p>On 1 September 2009, the National Preventative Health Taskforce recommended in its report, <i>Australia: The Healthiest Country by 2020</i> that consistent approaches to liquor control laws, including outlet density be developed. The report also noted that a number of initiatives to reduce alcohol-related violence have been pursued through COAG, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the development of comprehensive strategies; freezes on the issuing of new 24-hour licenses; and increases in licence fees for high-risk venues. <p>The Government will participate in any further discussion in COAG in relation to this issue.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 11 (Page 216) The Committee recommends that the Victorian Government enact secondary supply legislation to make it illegal for anyone other than a parent, guardian or spouse to provide alcohol to a minor in a private setting.</p> | <p>Accept</p> | <p>In early 2011 the Government introduced legislation into the Victorian Parliament to ensure that the supply of alcohol to minors in a residence without consent from a parent, guardian or adult spouse is illegal. The legislation received Royal Assent on 10 May 2011 and commenced operation on 1 November 2011.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 12 (Page 216) The Committee recommends that, in conjunction with the enactment of secondary supply legislation, the Victorian Government</p> | <p>Accept</p> | <p>In conjunction with the enactment of secondary supply legislation, the Government engaged VicHealth and the Australian Drug Foundation to develop and implement an information and education campaign to inform the community of the changes and the underlying reasons for delaying and limiting consumption of alcohol by teenagers. This information and education</p> |

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| <p>develop a comprehensive communication and education campaign targeting parents and teenagers, to inform them of the change in law.</p> | | <p>campaign included the launch of the Teen Drinking Law website and smart phone application, which provide information about the secondary supply laws and guidance for parents to assist with reducing adolescent alcohol use. An advertising campaign was conducted in late 2011 and early 2012, including promotions in print media and on public transport infrastructure. Community forums were also held in early 2012 to educate community members on the new legislation and the issues associated with alcohol and young people.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 13 (Page 244) The Committee recommends that Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) training be developed as a two-stage program, including a basic level course and a more advanced course.</p> | <p>Accept</p> | <p>In December 2009, the Director of Liquor Licensing completed a comprehensive review of the current training requirements under the <i>Liquor Control Reform Act 1998</i>, with the objective of examining and proposing ways to strengthen training provisions in the Act.</p> <p>As a result of this review, the training content and requirements were substantially strengthened in 2011. Under current requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Entrant Training must be completed by most applicants for a new liquor licence. It ensures that licensees understand their obligations under Victoria's liquor laws. • RSA training must be completed by most liquor licence applicants, as well as managers and serving staff of general, on-premises, packaged liquor, and late night licences. The face-to-face RSA program gives participants the skills and knowledge to ensure responsible service of alcohol and to contribute to a safe and enjoyable environment. • Persons that are required to complete RSA training must also complete an online RSA refresher course every three years. <p>The Government has committed to developing advanced RSA training tailored to late trading venues to ensure that they are equipped with the appropriate skills to manage the particular challenges such environments pose.</p> <p>The VCGLR is currently developing the new program. It piloted a draft program in December 2012, and ran stakeholder focus groups to further develop the training program and materials in February 2013. It has piloted the revised program in June and August. The Government is currently considering the options for implementing this second stage of the Victorian RSA program.</p> |

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| | | <p>The second stage of RSA training is a more advanced course for late night trading venues. The VCGLR is developing a new program is being developed to reduce aggression and injury in licensed premises. The program helps staff develop techniques for preventing and managing aggression and other problem behaviours by providing strategies to manage the particular challenges late night environments pose.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 14 (Page 244) The Committee recommends that stage two RSA certification be made compulsory for all staff (including outdoor staff) employed in venues/outlets operating under the following licence categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late night (general); • Late night (on-premises); • General and On-Premises (if authorised to trade past 11pm) • Packaged liquor; and • Late night (packaged liquor). | <p>Accept in principle</p> | <p>The Government has committed to developing advanced RSA training tailored to late trading venues to ensure that they are equipped with the appropriate skills to manage the particular challenges such environments pose.</p> <p>A pilot program for late night venue managers was delivered on 11 – 12 December 2012. The program is currently being evaluated, including industry stakeholder focus groups being held in February 2013 to discuss and advise on the further development of the late night venue training material. The pilot program and evaluation will provide recommendations in regard to the implementation of advanced RSA training for broad implementation to all relevant staff in Victoria.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 15 (Page 244) The Committee recommends that all staff employed in venues covered by recommendation 15 be required to complete RSA refresher training every 12 months.</p> | <p>Under review</p> | <p>Since 1 January 2011, staff have been required by legislation to undertake refresher RSA training every three years. The Government will monitor the effect of these new training requirements before determining whether more regular refresher courses should be mandated.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 16 (Page 245) The Committee recommends that the component of RSA training that covers skills in conflict resolution and the management of difficult patrons be increased in both the basic and advanced course.</p> | <p>Accept</p> | <p>The advanced RSA program for late night venues will cover conflict resolution and aggression management, among a comprehensive range of topics aimed at ensuring late trading venues are managed appropriately.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 17 (Page 245) The Committee recommends that venues operating under the following licence</p> | <p>Not accept</p> | <p>The VCGLR has discretion under the <i>Liquor Control Reform Act 1998</i> to impose any condition on a licence that it deems is required. Such conditions may relate to requirements for licensees to maintain an RSA monitor role. It is appropriate that the imposition of such</p> |

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| <p>categories be required to have an RSA monitor who is not directly involved in sales, but is available to assist bar staff and maintains an overview of the bar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late night (general); • Late night (on-premises); and • General and On-Premises (if authorised to trade past 11pm). | | <p>conditions remain at the discretion of the VCGLR.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 18 (Page 245) The Committee recommends that the Victorian Government legislate to make adherence to the measures established through liquor accords mandatory for late night venues within the local government area covered by the accord.</p> | <p>Not accept</p> | <p>The voluntary nature of forums and accords is one of the critical components in their success.</p> <p>Liquor forums provide an opportunity for groups of local licensees and other community members to meet and discuss alcohol-related issues in their community and share strategies to influence positive changes. Liquor forum membership consists of a diversity of business models and operating types from packaged liquor outlets, to sporting clubs, late night boutique bars and large nightclubs.</p> <p>A liquor accord is established by forum participants who wish to formalise their commitment to address alcohol-related problems by documenting it in writing. The accord is approved by the VCGLR and the Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police.</p> <p>Forums empower participants to proactively identify and manage local issues as they are occurring in their entertainment precincts. As licensees are not obligated to attend or participate in local forums in a formalised and structured environment, they are able to develop relevant localised solutions to immediate issues and concerns as they arise.</p> <p>Some of the measures set out in localised accords will not be applicable to all licence types and licensees who attend the 90 local forums across Victoria. The collaborative nature of forums has seen local forum members proactively establish separate targeted accords based around business models and licence types (sporting clubs, packaged liquor, late night venues). This collective approach builds an effective and sustainable local network to target local alcohol-related problems and to create mutually satisfactory solutions.</p> |

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| <p>Recommendation 19 (Page 245) The Committee recommends that the Victorian Government amend the Victorian Planning Provisions to include a clause that requires all new on-premises venues to adhere to the Design Guidelines for Licensed Premises.</p> | <p>Not accept</p> | <p>The Design Guidelines for Licensed Venues provide licensees, planners, designers and architects with a range of practical strategies to consider the effects that design can have on the behaviour of patrons and staff both internally and externally in a licensed venue. They are not designed to be prescriptive. The guidelines are not presented in a strict technical format (for example, the National Construction Code) that could be incorporated into the Victoria Planning Provisions. However, Local Government Authorities, and various industry players are encouraged to engage with and apply the guidelines in the design of new venues. The Government supports the ongoing use of the guidelines for licensed venues but does not support them as appropriate to be included within the Victoria Planning Provisions.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 20 (Page 246) The Committee recommends that the Victorian Government amend the Victorian Planning Provisions to include a clause that requires, in the case where there is an application to vary or transfer an existing liquor licence, that the venue must be upgraded to meet the Design Guidelines for Licensed Premises.</p> | <p>Not accept</p> | <p>The Design Guidelines for Licensed Venues provide licensees, planners, designers and architects with a range of practical strategies to consider the effects that design can have on the behaviour of patrons and staff both internally and externally in a licensed venue. They are not designed to be prescriptive. The guidelines are not presented in a strict technical format (for example, the National Construction Code) which would translate to the Victoria Planning Provisions. However, Local Government Authorities, and various industry stakeholders are encouraged to engage with and apply the guidelines in the retrofitting of existing venues. The Government supports the ongoing use of the guidelines for licensed venues but does not support them as appropriate to be included within the Victoria Planning Provisions.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 21 (Page 246) The Committee recommends that the Victorian Government encourage existing on-premises venues to upgrade their premises to meet the Design Guidelines for Licensed Premises. A list of compliant venues should be placed on the Department of Justice (Responsible Alcohol Victoria) website.</p> | <p>Accept in part</p> | <p>The Guidelines are an effective tool to use in the design of new venues and for application to established venues. The Government encourages all licensed venues (regardless of specific licence type) to take the principles and suggested design responses and solutions into account when addressing issues in licensed venues. However, publishing of these venues on the Department of Justice website is not appropriate. The Government is of the view that the 5-star rating system will better meet the needs and expectations of the community in providing public information on licensed venues.</p> |

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| <p>Recommendation 22 (Page 246) The Committee recommends that the Victorian Government investigate the option of regulating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mandatory use of polycarbonate or other shatter-proof glasses in venues that are subject to risk/late night trading fees under the <i>Liquor Control Reform Act 1998</i> (other than a premises with a restaurant or café license under Section 9); and • The requirement that all on-premises venues have food available for purchase. | <p>Under Review</p> | <p>Under the <i>Liquor Control Reform Act 1998</i>, the VCGLR can impose liquor licence conditions restricting the use of glass containers. Licensees may be required to use non-glass alternatives including re-usable and disposable plastic containers, aluminium cans or tempered glass. The Government will continue to monitor liquor licensing regulators throughout Australia and internationally in relation to the application of a range of restrictions on the use of glass in licensed premises to inform future policy.</p> <p>The Government notes that Responsible Service of Alcohol training encourages licensees to consider serving food when alcohol is being served as a strategy to prevent intoxication.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 23 (Page 261) The Committee recommends that the Victorian Government liaise with transport operators to investigate the feasibility of extending the hours of operation for public transport to 4.00am on Saturday and Sunday mornings.</p> | <p>Accept in principle</p> | <p>The Government has passed legislation to establish the Public Transport Development Authority, trading as Public Transport Victoria (PTV), to plan, coordinate and manage the Victorian public transport system. PTV commenced operations on 2 April 2012. Included within PTV's functions is the development and implementation of operational public transport policies and plans. In this context, PTV investigate and plan cost-effective public transport improvements, including hours of operation.</p> <p>Train and tram timetables introduced in October 2006 incorporated an increase in late night services of approximately one hour on Friday and Saturday nights. PTV monitors late night patronage, and it has found that the current levels of demand are not sufficient to warrant extending late-night services. In addition, the non-operational hours of the railway provide a valuable opportunity to perform essential maintenance services on the network to ensure the reliability of the network.</p> <p>The Government notes that NightRider buses already operate past 4.00am on Saturday and Sunday mornings and provide the best value for money as a flexible solution.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 24 (Page 261) The Committee recommends that the</p> | <p>Accept</p> | <p>The Government is continuing to work with local governments to improve taxi facilities across Victoria. Since the Taxi Rank Safety Program (TRSP) commenced in 2009-10, it has allocated</p> |

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| <p>Victorian Government continue to support the improvement of safety, quality and amenity of taxi ranks in high usage areas through the Taxi Rank Safety Program, which provides infrastructure grants to local councils throughout Victoria.</p> | | <p>more than \$3 million to 36 different councils to install or upgrade infrastructure at taxi ranks such as CCTV, shelters and improved lighting. Letters of offer have been distributed to grant applicants for the 2012/13 year.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 25 (Page 261) The Committee recommends that the Victorian Government investigate the establishment of 'safe places' and community services within entertainment precincts to provide support for vulnerable people.</p> | <p>Under review</p> | <p>The Government will consider as part of its overall approach to alcohol and drugs (<i>Reducing the Alcohol and Drug Toll: Victoria's Plan 2013-2017</i>) and community safety, different options to improve safety in entertainment precincts.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 26 (Page 277) The Committee recommends that the Victorian Government investigate the option of regulating alcohol advertising on a similar basis as currently applies to tobacco.</p> | <p>Accept in principle</p> | <p>Alcohol advertising in Australia is regulated both by government and through self-regulation, with a number of industry codes of practice and other voluntary, collaborative industry arrangements.</p> <p>These arrangements are significantly different to the regulation of tobacco advertising.</p> <p>The Australian Government has indicated in its response to the National Preventative Health Taskforce's report, <i>Australia: The Healthiest Country by 2020</i>, that it will commit to monitoring the existing quasi-regulatory system for alcohol advertising and other commitments on this issue by the alcohol industry to determine whether their action is sustained, well evaluated and successful over the next three years. The Australian National Preventive Health Agency is implementing arrangements to monitor the effectiveness of these arrangements.</p> <p>The Victorian Government supports continued monitoring of these current arrangements.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 27 (Page 277) The Committee recommends that the Victorian Government provide continued support for community based education campaigns that take a harm reduction</p> | <p>Accept</p> | <p>The Government supports continued community based education campaigns to prevent and reduce alcohol use across the community, including amongst young people. The Government made an immediate priority of implementing its election policy commitment to ban the supply of alcohol to minors in a private setting without consent from a parent, guardian or adult spouse. The Government also developed and implemented an information and education</p> |

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| <p>approach to alcohol use among young people.</p> | | <p>campaign to inform the community of these changes and the underlying reasons for delaying and limiting consumption of alcohol by teenagers. The Government has also delivered <i>SayWhen</i>, a new online tool available through the Better Health Channel to help people make informed decisions about their alcohol use, including help with reducing drinking and reducing harms related to alcohol use. In <i>Reducing the Alcohol and Drug Toll: Victoria's Plan 2013-2017</i> the Government has further committed to a program to promote a healthier drinking culture, especially among young people that will be led by the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth).</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 28 (Page 296) The Committee recommends that the Victorian Government provide further support to local government authorities to implement safety initiatives that have been shown to be effective.</p> | <p>Accept in principle</p> | <p>The Government currently provides support to local government authorities through a range of programs and services. The Government will investigate the cost-effectiveness of providing further support for programs that have shown, through evaluation, to be effective at improving public safety.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 29 (Page 297) The Committee recommends that the Victorian Government and local government facilitate and expand appropriate community forums and workshops that bring together refugee and newly arrived young people, Police, multicultural communities and service providers.</p> | <p>Accept in principle</p> | <p>The Government believes that local government and community organisations are best placed to facilitate and expand community forums and workshops at a local level. The Government will consider providing support to such local-based initiatives.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 30 (Page 64) The Committee recommends that the Victorian Government commission research projects into the experience and impact of assaults on victims.</p> | <p>Accept in principle</p> | <p>A range of research projects related to violence has been undertaken. The recommendation to commission research projects into the experience and impact of assaults on victims will be further considered in the context of current research activities, future research priorities and the Government's policy objectives across a range of portfolios.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 31 (Page 78) The Committee recommends that the Victorian Government commission research projects into the nature and extent of assaults</p> | <p>Accept in principle</p> | <p>Commissioning research projects into violence against particular groups in the Victorian community will be further considered in the context of current research activities, future research priorities and the Government's policy objectives across a range of portfolios.</p> |

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| <p>against homeless people, people from CALD backgrounds, international students and workers, Indigenous people and same-sex attracted people.</p> | | |
| <p>Recommendation 32 (Page 100) The Committee recommends that the Victorian Government commission research into the prevalence of alcohol being consumed in combination with stimulant drugs such as amphetamines or caffeine based drinks, and the potential for such combinations to contribute to violent behaviour.</p> | <p>Accept in principle</p> | <p>A range of research projects related to drugs and alcohol has been undertaken. The recommendation in regard to commissioning research into the prevalence of alcohol being consumed in combination with stimulant drugs, and the potential for such combinations to contribute to violent behaviour will be further considered in the context of current research activities, future research priorities and the Government's policy objectives across a range of portfolios, and specifically <i>Reducing the Alcohol and Drug Toll: Victoria's Plan 2013-2017</i>. Research is being undertaken through the Inter-Governmental Committee on Drugs on mixing alcohol with high caffeine energy drinks.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 33 (Page 100) The Committee recommends that the Victorian Government collect alcohol sales data.</p> | <p>Under review</p> | <p>Through <i>Reducing the Alcohol and Drug Toll: Victoria's Plan 2013-2017</i>, the Government has committed to comprehensively scoping the costs, feasibility, benefits and limitations of collecting wholesale alcohol sales data to support research and policies aimed at reducing alcohol-related harm. The Department of Justice is currently undertaking this review. The Government will consider the recommendation once the review has been completed.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 34 (Page 297) The Committee recommends that the Victorian Government establish procedures to collect data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To provide local government authorities with accurate, timely and comprehensive assault data so that they are in a better position to plan and respond to assaults occurring in individual areas throughout their municipalities; and ● To evaluate the impact of new initiatives and to inform future policy directions. | <p>Accept in principle</p> | <p>The recommendation is broadly supported.</p> <p>The Government has already indicated that work is progressing for the establishment of an agency that would publish crime statistics.</p> <p>It is expected that this agency will consider the frequency with which data is provided to ensure that the data is meaningful and useful.</p> |

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| <p>Recommendation 35 (Page 35) The Committee recommends that Victoria Police develop a standard alcohol identifier ('flag') that is both consistent in measurement and application across the state, and mandatory for all offences recorded in Victoria.</p> | <p>Accept in principle</p> | <p>The Government will investigate the feasibility of developing a standard alcohol identifier or 'flag', and in <i>Reducing the Alcohol and Drug Toll: Victoria's Plan 2013-2017</i> has committed to work with Victoria Police to collect data to track alcohol and drug related offences to inform policing and enforcement operations.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 36 (Page 35) The Committee recommends that the Victorian Government, through COAG, supports and encourages the further investigation and modelling of a tiered volumetric system of taxation for alcoholic beverages to discourage harmful consumption and promote safer consumption.</p> | <p>Under review</p> | <p>The Victorian Government is supportive of ongoing discussion with other jurisdictions in relation to taxation, noting that the Commonwealth Government is responsible for determining any change to alcohol taxation policy.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 37 (Page 216) The Committee recommends that the Victorian Government, through COAG, supports development of the public interest case for a minimum (floor) price per standard drink, to apply to all alcoholic beverages to discourage harmful consumption and promote safer consumption.</p> | <p>Under review</p> | <p>The Commonwealth Government sought advice from Australian National Preventive Health Agency on the public interest case for a minimum floor price for alcohol. On 1 November 2012 the Agency published its draft report, <i>Exploring the Public Interest Case for a Minimum (Floor) Price for Alcohol</i>, which advised the Commonwealth Government that a minimum (floor) price for alcohol should not be introduced nationally at this time.</p> |