



ALCOHOL AND LEAVERS CELEBRATIONS COMMUNITY ACTION KIT

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WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THIS COMMUNITY TOOLKIT

- **Infographic** which highlights important information and statistics about alcohol and young people.
- **Posters** to promote the Parents, Young People and Alcohol campaign.
- **Fact sheet** which provides key facts about young people and alcohol laws.
- **Key media messages.**
- **Frequently asked questions** which can be used through various media channels such as local newspapers, local radio interviews or talk-back radio.
- **Did you know** facts which provides useful information that can be submitted to local media, community groups or put on your organisation's website/social media pages.

AS A LOCAL STAKEHOLDER YOU MAY WISH TO USE ONE OR ALL OF THE SUPPLIED TEMPLATES AND STRATEGIES. YOU ARE IN THE BEST POSITION TO DETERMINE WHICH ACTIVITIES WORK BEST FOR YOU AND WE ARE HAPPY TO OFFER ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT AS REQUESTED.

BACKGROUND

ABOUT THIS TOOLKIT

This toolkit provides information for professionals and community groups who want to increase the awareness of parents and the community to help reduce alcohol-related harm associated with Leavers' celebrations.

The Alcohol and Leavers celebrations messaging endeavours to increase awareness of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Alcohol Guideline for young people and the secondary supply legislation. The guideline is:

GUIDELINE 3A - REDUCE RISK TO THOSE UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

Parents and carers should be advised that children under 15-years-of-age are at the greatest risk of harm from drinking and that for this age group, not drinking alcohol is especially important.

GUIDELINE 3B - REDUCE RISK TO THOSE UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

For young people aged 15 - 17 years, the safest option is to delay the initiation of drinking for as long as possible.

THE CAMPAIGN TARGET GROUP

Primary target groups

- Parents and carers of Year 12 students attending Leavers' celebrations.
- People in the Western Australian (WA) community who may be in a position to influence young people such as those who run accommodation.

Secondary target group

- Year 12 students attending Leavers' celebrations.

WHAT IS LEAVERS?

Leavers is the celebratory period of three to five days at the completion of Year 12 in WA, where students often travel to various locations (including Dunsborough, Busselton, Margaret River, Rottnest Island) to celebrate with their peers. Referred to as 'Schoolies' in other states, Leavers has become increasingly popular in WA over the past decade. This year the official Leavers' celebration period is from **Monday 21 November to Thursday 24 November 2016**.

IF YOU ARE UNDER 18 NOT DRINKING ALCOHOL IS THE SAFEST CHOICE

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION AND LEAVERS WEEK

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ALCOHOL USE OUTSIDE OF AND DURING THE WA LEAVERS' CELEBRATION PERIOD

RESEARCH SHOWS THAT WHEN YOUNG PEOPLE CHOOSE TO DRINK, THEY DO SO AT LEVELS SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN THE RECOMMENDED LOW RISK LEVELS FOR ADULTS.

School students in Western Australia are surveyed every three years to find out about their alcohol and other drug use in the Australian School Students Alcohol and Drug (ASSAD) survey.

Based on adult guidelines, of those students who drank in the last week (13.9%), one in three (29.8%) drank at risky levels for single occasion alcohol-related harm.

WHEN STUDENTS DO DRINK, THEY ARE DOING SO AT INCREASINGLY HARMFUL LEVELS

Over the last two decades, there has been an increase in the proportion of students drinking at harmful levels on a single occasion. Harmful levels are defined using adult guidelines (more than 4 standard drinks in a session), although the guidelines for young people state that not drinking is still the safest option. Only those students who had used alcohol in the last week were asked about the quantity consumed.

OLDER STUDENTS ARE MORE LIKELY TO TRY ALCOHOL AND DRINK AT HARMFUL LEVELS

As students get older they are more likely to have tried alcohol, despite the harmful effects of any alcohol consumption under the age of 18. The number of students drinking at risk of single occasion harm increases with age.

MANY YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN LEAVERS DRINK LARGE AMOUNTS OF ALCOHOL

A survey done at a popular WA Leavers' destination found that leavers who drank alcohol consumed an average of 15.8 standard drinks on a typical day compared to 11.9 standard drinks at their last social event with friends.

WHAT INFLUENCES YOUNG PEOPLE TO DRINK ALCOHOL?

- If their parents are supportive of them drinking.
- A perception that the culture of alcohol consumption is normal in the Australian community and that the majority of adults drink.
- A belief that there is a culture among their peers of drinking to get drunk.
- Their friends.
- The availability of alcohol. The easier it is to get the more likely they are to drink.
- Beliefs such as 'drinking is fun', 'won't have a good time without it', 'easier to socialise', 'makes you more confident', 'to relieve problems', 'to relax', and 'it's what everyone does, it's normal'.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S REASONS FOR NOT DRINKING ALCOHOL

- Don't want or need to drink.
- Want to be healthy and don't want alcohol to interfere with the ability to do more important things such as playing sport or music.
- Loss of their parents' trust.
- Wanting to stay in control.
- Personal or religious values.

WHY IS LEAVERS A CONCERN?

For many young people, Leavers is the first time they are away from home for an extended period without parental supervision. This, along with the availability of alcohol, the high expectation to drink, and large numbers of other young people celebrating, can and does lead to young people being in dangerous and harmful situations.

RESEARCH CONDUCTED AT A POPULAR LEAVERS' DESTINATION FOUND THAT 93% OF LEAVERS CONSUMED ALCOHOL DURING THE CELEBRATION PERIOD

ALMOST 9 OUT OF 10 LEAVERS REPORTED AT LEAST ONE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCE DUE TO ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUG USE. SOME EXAMPLES OF THESE CONSEQUENCES INCLUDED:

- HANGOVER 67%
- BLACKOUT 58%
- ACCIDENT OR INJURY 41%
- REGRETFUL SEX 21%
- UNPROTECTED SEX 14%.

ON A SINGLE OCCASION OF DRINKING, THE RISK OF ALCOHOL-RELATED INJURY INCREASES WITH THE AMOUNT CONSUMED, POTENTIALLY CAUSING THESE ADDITIONAL HEALTH HARMS:

- VIOLENCE
- CONFLICT BETWEEN FRIEND GROUPS
- EMBARRASSING BEHAVIOUR PUT UP ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

THERE ARE ALSO LOCAL IMPACTS ON THE COMMUNITY DURING LEAVERS, INCLUDING:

- LITTERING
- PROPERTY DAMAGE
- NOISE AND DISTURBANCE TO LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS
- COSTS TO THE WA POLICE AND HEALTH SYSTEM.

A 2014 SURVEY REPORTING ON DRINKING BEHAVIOURS OF STUDENTS WHO CONSUMED ALCOHOL IN THE LAST WEEK FOUND:

- BASED ON ADULT GUIDELINES, OF THOSE STUDENTS WHO DRANK IN THE LAST WEEK (13.9%), ONE IN THREE (29.8%) DRANK AT RISKY LEVELS FOR SINGLE OCCASION ALCOHOL-RELATED HARM.
- FRIENDS (30.5%) AND PARENTS (30.4%) WERE THE MOST LIKELY SOURCE OF A STUDENT'S LAST DRINK.
- SINCE 2005 THE PROPORTION OF STUDENTS AGREEING THAT ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS THEY DRINK IS TO GET DRUNK HAS DECREASED FROM 38.8% TO 30.3%.

WHAT CAN COMMUNITIES DO?

IMPLEMENT CAMPAIGN MATERIALS

INFOGRAPHIC

YOUNG PEOPLE CAMPAIGN POSTERS

SECONDARY SUPPLY POSTERS

FACT SHEET

INFOGRAPHIC

PURPOSE

This infographic can be used in a variety of ways to highlight important statistics and information about alcohol and young people.

WHERE CAN YOU USE THE INFOGRAPHIC

- Within school and P&C/P&F websites and newsletters.
- Published in community newspapers.
- Displayed on community notice boards and within youth centres.
- Use data on community radio announcements.

Leavers – what parents should know

Help young people avoid harms at Leavers by providing clear expectations about alcohol.

A survey conducted at a popular Leavers' destination found:

- **93% of leavers used alcohol** during the celebration.

Leavers who reported drinking, consumed on average nearly **16 standard drinks a day**.



• **Almost 9 out of 10 leavers** reported at least one negative consequence due to alcohol or other drug use, including:



However, during the rest of the year, young people also report drinking in a similar way:

- **Most 17 year-olds (94.3%) have tried alcohol.**
- **48.6%** of 17 year-olds who drank in the last week, did so at levels considered **harmful for adults**.

In **Western Australia** 17 year-olds **get alcohol from:** (of those who drank in the last week)



If you choose to send your child to Leavers:

Help your child avoid some of the harms of Leavers by being involved in their planning.

Talk to your child about staying safe and respecting the town they are visiting.

Do not provide your child with alcohol or money to buy alcohol.

Maintain regular contact with your child.

for under 18s **NO alcohol is the safest choice**

TIP!
CLICK ON THE IMAGE TO ACCESS THE PDF VERSION

Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this resource at the time of publication. For more information on what you can do go to: www.alcoholthinkagain.com.au OR www.leaverswa.com.au
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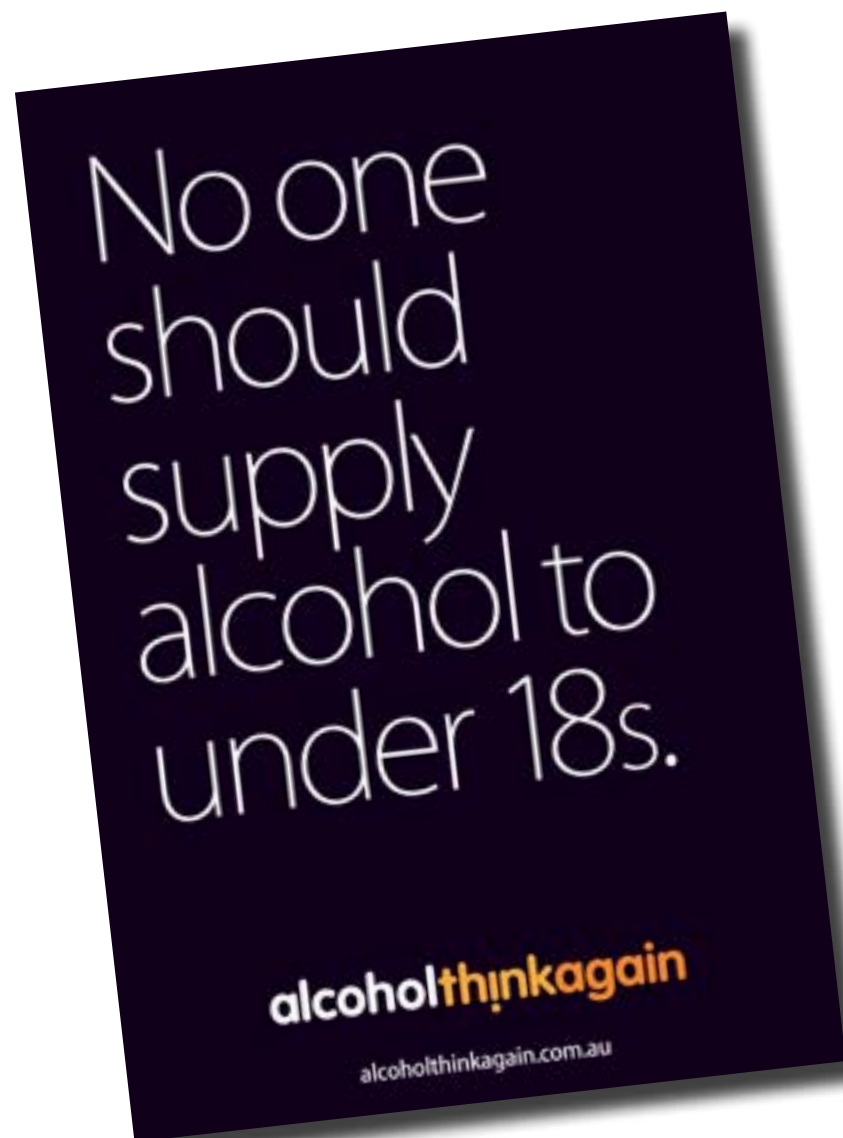
POSTERS – YOUNG PEOPLE AND ALCOHOL

PURPOSE

There are two posters available to promote the *Alcohol.Think Again*; no alcohol is the safest choice message.

WHERE CAN YOU USE THE POSTER

- Place in schools, shopping centres, community centres, sporting complexes.
- Display at events, particularly those that parents are likely to attend.
- These posters could be displayed prior to Leavers, to remind parents of the no alcohol is the safest choice message.



POSTERS – YOUNG PEOPLE AND ALCOHOL



POSTERS – SECONDARY SUPPLY

PURPOSE

This poster brings awareness to and reminds people of the recently introduced secondary supply laws.

WHERE CAN YOU USE THIS POSTER

- Place in reception area of accommodation or venues.
- Display at licensed venues such as bottle-shops.



FACT SHEET – YOUNG PEOPLE AND ALCOHOL LAWS

PURPOSE

To educate parents and Leavers attendees, on the secondary supply laws and other alcohol laws under the *Liquor Control Act 1988* that are relevant for young people.

WHERE CAN YOU USE THIS FACT SHEET

- Place in reception area of accommodation or venues.
- Distribute at schools before Leavers celebrations start.



IMPLEMENT NON-CAMPAIGN MATERIALS

KEY MEDIA MESSAGES

FACEBOOK POSTS

DID YOU KNOW - FACTS

RADIO INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

KEY MEDIA MESSAGES

PURPOSE

The following key media messages have been designed to be adapted for your local community.

KEY MESSAGE 1

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Australian Alcohol Guidelines recommend for young people under 18 years of age, not drinking alcohol is the safest option.

KEY MESSAGE 2

The NHMRC Australian Guidelines to Reduce Health Risks from Drinking Alcohol (2009) recommendation 'no alcohol for young people' is based on an assessment of the potential harms of alcohol for young people, as well as a range of epidemiological research, which show that:

- Risky behaviour is more likely among drinkers aged 15–17 years than older drinkers.
- Alcohol may adversely affect brain development and lead to alcohol-related problems in later life.

CALL TO ACTION

For more information on alcohol and Leavers visit alcoholthinkagain.com.au or leaverswa.com.au

KEY MESSAGE 3

Research conducted in 2009 of Western Australian students celebrating at a popular Leavers' destination has shown that Leavers who were supplied alcohol by their parents were more likely to drink at harmful levels.

Of the 25% of leavers who said their parents provided them with alcohol at the celebrations:

- 89% drank at levels considered harmful for adults by the NHMRC.
- 65% reported they had sources other than their parents providing them with alcohol. Provision of alcohol by parents is likely to be topping up this situation.

KEY MESSAGE 4

- 93% of attendees at a popular Leavers' destination reported using alcohol during the celebrations.
- Alcohol-related harms during a Leavers' celebration:
 - 58% reported a blackout.
 - 67% a hangover.
 - 41% an accident or injury.
 - 21% had regretful sex.
 - 14% had unprotected sex.

TIP!
CLICK HERE TO
DOWNLOAD A WORD
DOCUMENT OF THE
INFORMATION

FACEBOOK POSTS

TIP!
CLICK HERE TO
DOWNLOAD A
WORD DOCUMENT
OF THE POSTS

PURPOSE

To promote the Leavers message on your facebook page.

POST 1

POST IMAGE



Do you have a child that is in Year 12 this year? Just a reminder that the official 2016 Leavers' celebration period this year is from Monday 21 to Thursday 24 November. Popular locations include Dunsborough, Busselton, Margaret River and Rottnest Island. For more information visit the Leavers WA website.

POST SHOULD LINK TO: <https://www.leaverswa.com.au/>

POST 4

POST IMAGE



Parents are key influencers on whether their child does or doesn't drink alcohol. Children who were supplied alcohol by their parents for Leavers' celebrations were more likely to drink at harmful levels. It is important for parents to support their child's plan for their Leavers' to avoid possible harms.

POST SHOULD LINK TO: <http://alcoholthinkagain.com.au/Parents-Young-People/Your-Child-And-Leavers/Support-your-Child-to-plan-their-Leavers>

POST 2

POST IMAGE



Research conducted at a popular Leavers destination in 2009 found 93% of WA Leavers' consumed alcohol during the celebration and an average of 88% of Leavers were drinking across the three days of the celebration.

See more Leavers statistics here.

POST SHOULD LINK TO: http://alcoholthinkagain.com.au/Portals/0/documents/publications/leavers/ATA_leavers_infographic_a3_oct2014.pdf

POST 5

POST IMAGE



Leavers is approaching and its is important for parents to talk about the risks associated with alcohol consumption (blackouts, intoxication, being unable to control their actions, violence, the risk of unwanted sexual encounters etc.). For more tips on what parents can do click here.

POST SHOULD LINK TO: <http://alcoholthinkagain.com.au/Parents-Young-People/Your-Child-And-Leavers/Talk-to-your-Child-about-what-to-expect>

POST 3

POST IMAGE



Alcohol consumption among young people at Leavers can result in a series of negative alcohol-related effects including injury, violence, crime, unwanted sexual encounters, and embarrassing behaviour put up on social media.

Click here for more information about your child and Leavers, and learn why for under 18s no alcohol is the safest choice.

POST SHOULD LINK TO: <http://alcoholthinkagain.com.au/Parents-Young-People/Your-Child-And-Leavers>

POST 6

POST IMAGE



No alcohol is the safest choice for under 18s. To empower parents in their decision to not provide alcohol Secondary Supply Laws are now in effect. For more information about Secondary Supply and other alcohol laws that relate to minors click here.

POST SHOULD LINK TO: <http://alcoholthinkagain.com.au/Parents-Young-People/Young-People-and-Alcohol-Laws>

DID YOU KNOW – FACTS

HOW TO USE THESE DID YOU KNOW - FACTS

There are many myths and misconceptions regarding young people and alcohol. This section provides some factual information on debunking myths or beliefs about young people and alcohol commonly held by the community.

These can be used in a variety of ways, including:

- Published in the local newspapers.
- As speaking points for radio presenters or in radio interviews.
- On your organisation's website and newsletter.
- On your social media pages.

DID YOU KNOW 1

CHILDREN WHO WERE SUPPLIED ALCOHOL BY THEIR PARENTS AT LEAVERS REPORTED DRINKING AT MORE HARMFUL LEVELS THAN THOSE WHO WERE NOT SUPPLIED ALCOHOL BY THEIR PARENTS.

PROOF

Research of WA students celebrating at a popular Leavers' destination has shown that children who were supplied alcohol by their parents for Leavers were more likely to drink at harmful levels.

Of the 25% of Leavers who said their parents provided them with alcohol at the celebrations:

- 89% drank at levels considered harmful for adults by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Guidelines.
- 65% reported they had sources other than their parents providing them with alcohol. Provision of alcohol by parents is likely to be topping up this situation.



DID YOU KNOW – FACTS

DID YOU KNOW 2

WHEN TEENAGERS DRINK ALCOHOL AT LEAVERS, MANY DO DRINK AT HARMFUL LEVELS.

PROOF

- 89% of drinkers at Leavers consume alcohol at levels which are considered by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to put adults at risk of short-term harm (more than 4 standard drinks in a single session).
- 87% of Leavers experienced at least one negative experience at the school Leavers' celebrations from alcohol and other drug use. These included:
 - 67% had a hangover
 - 58% reported a blackout
 - 41% had an accident or injury
 - 21% had regretful sex
 - 14% had unprotected sex.

TIP!
CLICK HERE TO
DOWNLOAD A
WORD DOCUMENT
OF THIS
INFORMATION

DID YOU KNOW 3

PEOPLE WHO DRINK TOO MUCH ALCOHOL AT LEAVERS CAN HURT OTHER PEOPLE AS WELL AS THEMSELVES.

PROOF

Leavers' alcohol consumption and associated harms can also impact on communities where Leavers go to celebrate in terms of costs to:

- The health system (Emergency Departments, health services)
- WA Police (additional resources needed to be provided)
- Local government (littering, property damage)
- Noise and disturbance to local residents
- Street drinking.

Problems associated with drinking alcohol at Leavers that impact on the individual drinker and others can include:

- Accidents and injuries
- Violence (verbal abuse, aggression)
- Crime (including assault, vandalism, and petty crimes)
- Road safety issues
- Impact on friendships and relationships
- Humiliation through social media
- Unwanted sexual encounters
- Unprotected sex.

Every additional drink significantly increases the risk of injury and death for the drinker and may place others at risk of harm as well, such as family, friends and members of the community.

RADIO INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

QUESTION

What is Leavers?

ANSWER

- Leavers is the celebratory period of three to five days at the completion of Year 12 in WA where students often travel to various locations (including Dunsborough, Busselton, Margaret River, Rottnest Island) to celebrate with their peers.
- Referred to as Schoolies in other states, Leavers has become a growing trend in WA over the past decade.
- This year Leavers' celebration is from Monday 21 November and Thursday 24 November 2016.
- Whilst Leavers can be an exciting time for teenagers it can also put them into situations they may not have been in before.
- It is important for parents and school leavers to be informed about the risks and alcohol-related harms that can occur. Parents can help their child avoid some of the harms associated with Leavers by supporting their child in the planning process.
- There is also a good chance that at Leavers' celebrations young people may find themselves in an environment where alcohol is being consumed.

QUESTION

How much are young people drinking during Leavers' celebrations?

ANSWER

Research conducted at a popular Leavers' destination found:

- More than half the young people surveyed in a 2009 study reported drinking an average of 15.8 standard drinks a day, which places them above the adult Guideline for single-occasion harm.
- It is recommended for young people under 18 years of age, no alcohol is the safest choice and to delay drinking alcohol as long as possible.

QUESTION

What harms can arise during Leavers?

ANSWER

Alcohol consumption among young people at Leavers can result in a series of negative alcohol-related effects.

Effects on the individual

- Accidents and injuries
- Violence (verbal abuse, aggression)
- Crime (including assault, vandalism, and petty crimes)
- Road safety issues
- Impact on friendships and relationships
- Humiliation through social media
- Unwanted sexual encounters
- Unprotected sex.

Effects on the wider community, including the host communities for Leavers:

- Costs to the health system (Emergency Departments, health services)
- Costs to the WA Police
- Local government costs (littering, property damage)
- Noise and disturbance to local residents
- Street drinking.

RADIO INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

QUESTION

Aren't you being over protective?

ANSWER

- Leavers deserve to have a good time – they've earned it! We're saying have fun - but do it without alcohol.
- If you're under 18, alcohol can affect your body and brain in a way that can have long-term effects.

QUESTION

It's seen as part of the Aussie culture to have a few drinks to celebrate.

ANSWER

- Young people learn a lot from adults about the place of alcohol in everyday life and a lot of alcohol-related harm happens during Leavers' celebrations.
- We hope parents and young people will get informed about what alcohol can do to the growing body and brain.

QUESTION

Realistically, how do you expect kids to say no to alcohol when there's so much peer pressure?

ANSWER

- Teach them. Give your kids strategies to deal with situations when they are offered alcohol.
- Suggest ways to say no, thanks, in a language they will use.
- Recommend non-alcoholic options.

RADIO INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

QUESTION

What can parents do to help their child avoid alcohol-related harm during Leavers?

ANSWER

- There are many things parents can do to ensure their children are safe during Leavers' celebrations. It is important to know that what parents do, how they communicate their expectations and whether they supply alcohol does affect their child's choices about alcohol.

Don't supply under 18s with alcohol.

- Research at a popular Leavers' destination in WA has shown that children who were supplied alcohol by their parents for Leavers' celebrations were more likely to drink at harmful levels.
- For example, of the 25% of Leavers who said their parents provided them with alcohol at the celebrations:
 - 89% drank at levels considered harmful for adults by the National Health and Medical Research (NHMRC) Guidelines.
 - 65% reported they had sources other than their parents providing them with alcohol. Provision of alcohol by parents is likely to be topping up this situation.

Talk about expectations with alcohol use.

- Discuss your expectations about alcohol and the reasons why you want the celebrations to be alcohol-free.
- Explain that you want them to have fun and enjoy themselves, but you would like to make sure that they are going to be safe.
- Provide strategies to stay safe.
- Encourage your child to participate in organised activities for Leavers that don't include alcohol.
- Suggest good responses for your child to use to refuse alcohol when it is offered.
- Suggest alternatives to drinking alcohol such as a soft drink, juices and water.
- Discuss the risks associated with alcohol consumption (blackouts, intoxication, being unable to control their actions, violence, the risk of unwanted sexual encounters etc.).
- Discuss where to get help for themselves or their friends should the need arise. Ensure they have an In Case of Emergency (ICE) contact on their phone.

Be available for your child to contact at any time.

- Maintain regular contact with your child while they are away.
- Encourage them to contact you at any time if they are feeling uncomfortable or need help.
- Be prepared to go and get them if they are not coping and want to come home.

For more tips on how to support your child if they are attending Leavers go to alcoholthinkagain.com or leaverswa.com.au

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - SECONDARY SUPPLY

ALCOHOL LAWS – LICENSED PREMISES/PRIVATE SETTINGS

WHAT ARE THE LAWS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA ABOUT ALCOHOL AND YOUNG PEOPLE?

The laws are different in each State or Territory regarding alcohol use by people under the age of 18.

In WA:

- It is an offence for anyone under the age of 18 years to enter or remain on licensed premises without a legal guardian or responsible adult except under specific circumstances outlined in the *Liquor Control Act 1988*.
- It is against the law to sell or supply alcohol to anyone under the age of 18 years on licensed premises or regulated premises (such as a community hall holding an 18th birthday).
- It is an offence for anyone under the age of 18 years to consume alcohol or be in the possession of alcohol on licensed or regulated premises and it is an offence to allow that to occur.
- It is an offence for anyone under the age of 18 to purchase or obtain, or attempt to purchase or obtain alcohol from any other person on licensed or regulated premises.
- It is an offence for persons of any age to drink in public, such as on the street, park or beach. Opened liquor can be confiscated and destroyed by the Police.
- It is an offence for anyone under the age of 18 to be in possession of alcohol (open or un-open) in a public place. Police have powers to seize and dispose of the liquor under those circumstances.



ALCOHOL LAWS – PRIVATE SETTINGS

The following questions and answers are about new laws on the secondary supply of alcohol. The Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor WA are responsible for these laws and if you require more information please go to www.rgl.wa.gov.au

ARE THERE LAWS ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE DRINKING ALCOHOL AT HOME?

On 20 November 2015, new laws came into effect regarding the secondary supply of alcohol. Under this law, it is an offence for anyone to supply under 18s with alcohol in a private setting without parental or guardian permission. This offence carries a penalty of up to \$10,000.

Alcohol causes harm to young people. It can increase their risk of injury, mental health problems, and cause permanent damage to their developing brain. For these reasons the national health guideline for children and young people under 18 years of age states that not drinking alcohol is the safest option.

Parents not wanting their children to drink alcohol are now able to stand firm in their decision, as it is now illegal for other adults to provide alcohol to their children, at a private setting, without their permission.

DO OTHER ADULTS NEED VERBAL PERMISSION FROM ME TO GIVE MY CHILD ALCOHOL OR DO THEY NEED TO HAVE MY PERMISSION IN WRITING?

Permission can be in any format; however, it is preferable to be in writing.

When deciding whether or not to give someone permission to provide alcohol to your child alcohol, you may find it helpful to consider the harm alcohol causes to young people. It can increase their risk of injury, mental health problems and permanent damage to their developing brain. For these reasons, the national health guideline for children and young people under 18 years of age recommend no alcohol is the safest choice and that is why no one should supply alcohol to under 18s.

ALCOHOL LAWS – PRIVATE SETTINGS

I AM HAVING A SMALL GATHERING AT MY HOME FOR END OF SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS. A FEW OF MY DAUGHTER’S FRIENDS HAVEN’T TURNED 18 YET; IS IT OKAY FOR ME TO SERVE THEM ALCOHOL IF THEIR PARENTS RING ME AND GIVE THEIR PERMISSION OVER THE PHONE OR PROVIDE PERMISSION BY TEXT?

Yes, provided you are satisfied that the person you have spoken to is the juvenile’s parent or guardian and that they are not drunk when they give their consent.

The law now requires that if you are supplying alcohol to an under 18 year old in your home you must observe responsible supervision practices at all times. This includes making sure these young people don’t get drunk (or you do not get drunk yourself) and that you are able to supervise their consumption of alcohol at all times.

Be aware that alcohol causes harm to young people. It can increase their risk of injury, mental health problems and permanent damage to their developing brain. For these reasons, the national health guideline for children and young people under 18 years of age recommend no alcohol is the safest choice and that is why no one should supply alcohol to under 18s.

MY SON, WHO IS 17, WAS GIVEN ALCOHOL BY HIS 17 YEAR OLD FRIEND WHILE VISITING HIS HOUSE AT LEAVERS. DOES HIS FRIEND NEED TO GET MY PERMISSION BEFORE HE CAN DO THAT?

Yes. It is an offence for a person to supply alcohol to a juvenile irrespective of the age of the person supplying it. Juveniles who breach the secondary supply laws will be subject to the provisions of the *Young Offenders Act 1994*, and may be dealt with through alternative measures such as a caution or referred to a juvenile justice team.

IF A YOUNG PERSON WHO IS NOT YET 18 YEARS OF AGE BRINGS THEIR OWN ALCOHOL TO MY HOUSE, IS THIS AN OFFENCE UNDER THE NEW SECONDARY SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL LAW?

The new law centres around supplying alcohol to juveniles. Should a parent lodge a complaint with the police (irrespective of who supplied the alcohol) it will be a matter for them or the courts to determine the issue of supply.

Nevertheless, as a parent faced with this particular situation, you may wish to call the child’s parents to check the circumstances and make a record of it. Otherwise, it is preferable that you do not permit the juvenile to bring the alcohol onto your property.

ALCOHOL LAWS – PRIVATE SETTINGS

INSTEAD OF LEAVERS, MY DAUGHTER DECIDED TO HAVE HER END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS AT MY HOME. ONE OF HER 17 YEAR OLD FRIENDS TOLD ME THAT HER MOTHER HAD GIVEN HER PERMISSION TO DRINK ALCOHOL. IS IT OKAY FOR ME TO GIVE HER A DRINK IN MY HOUSE?

No. You must obtain the permission from her parent or guardian, preferably in writing. Without their permission, you are liable for a penalty of up to \$10,000.

The law now requires that if you are supplying alcohol to an under 18 year old in your home you must observe responsible supervision practices at all times. This includes making sure these young people don't get drunk (or you do not get drunk yourself) and that you are able to supervise their consumption of alcohol at all times.

Be aware that alcohol causes harm to young people. It can increase their risk of injury, mental health problems and permanent damage to their developing brain. For these reasons, the national alcohol guideline for children and young people under 18 years of age recommend no alcohol is the safest choice and that is why no one should supply alcohol to under 18s.

IS IT OKAY FOR OTHER PEOPLE TO GIVE MY CHILD SIPS OF ALCOHOL WITHOUT MY PERMISSION, EVEN IF IT'S IN A PRIVATE HOME?

No, it is an offence for anyone to supply your child with alcohol, even a sip, if they are under 18 years of age, without your permission. This offence carries a penalty of up to \$10,000.

Research shows that children of parents who give permission to drink alcohol at home and provide alcohol are associated with greater levels of adolescent alcohol use, heavy use, drunkenness, and intentions to drink. Children who have had sips of alcohol by age 10 (compared to those who have not sipped) are more likely to start drinking by the age of 14. Children who had sipped and then asked parents for a sip of their alcohol showed elevated alcohol use.

Alcohol causes harm to young people. It can increase their risk of injury, mental health problems, and cause permanent damage to their developing brain. For these reasons the national health guideline for children and young people under 18 years of age, states not drinking alcohol is the safest option.

TIP!
CLICK HERE TO
DOWNLOAD A
WORD DOCUMENT
OF THESE FAQs

USEFUL CONTACTS

ALCOHOL.THINK AGAIN WEBSITE

www.alcoholthinkagain.com.au

ALCOHOL OTHER DRUGS AND PREVENTION SERVICES

Mental Health Commission

1 Nash Street

Perth WA 6000

Telephone: (08) 6553 0600

Website: dao.health.wa.gov.au | mentalhealth.wa.gov.au

ALCOHOL AND DRUG SUPPORT LINE

For anyone concerned about their own or another person's alcohol use or drug use. A 24-hour, state-wide, confidential telephone service.

Telephone: (08) 9442 5000

Toll free (country callers only): 1800 198 024

Email: alcoholdrugsupport@mhc.wa.gov.au

PARENT AND FAMILY DRUG SUPPORT LINE

For anyone concerned about a loved one's alcohol or drug use. A 24-hour, state-wide, confidential telephone service.

Telephone: (08) 9442 5050

Toll free (country callers only): 1800 653 203

Email: alcoholdrugsupport@mhc.wa.gov.au

LEAVERS WA

Information to help plan your Leavers experience, advise for parents and guardians, and tips to stay safe during Leavers.

Website: leaverswa.com.au



Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this resource at the time of publication.

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