

# SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

## INQUIRY INTO READY-TO-DRINK ALCOHOL BEVERAGES

### Terms of Reference

On 15 May 2008 the Senate referred to the Community Affairs Committee for inquiry and report by 24 June 2008:

- (a) the effectiveness of the Government's proposed changes to the alcohol excise regime in reducing the claims of excessive consumption of ready-to-drink alcohol beverages;
- (b) the consumption patterns of ready-to-drink alcohol beverages by sex and age group;
- (c) the consumption patterns of all alcohol beverages by sex and age group;
- (d) the impact of these changes on patterns of overall full strength spirit consumption, including any increased consumption of standard drinks of alcohol;
- (e) the evidence underpinning the claims of significant public health benefit in the increase of excise on this category of alcohol;
- (f) applicability of incentives to encourage production and consumption of lower alcohol content beverages;
- (g) the modelling underpinning the Government's revenue estimates of this measure;
- (h) the effectiveness of excise increases as a tool in reducing the levels of alcohol related harm;
- (i) the empirical evidence on which the government's decision to increase the excise on ready-to-drink alcohol beverages was based; and
- (j) the effect of alternative means of limiting excessive alcohol consumption and levels of alcohol related harm among young people.

Written submissions are invited and should be addressed to:

**The Secretary  
Senate Community Affairs Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600**

**Closing date for the receipt of submissions is 30 May 2008.**

The Committee prefers to receive submissions electronically as an attached document - email: [community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au)

Submissions become Committee documents and are made public only after a decision by the Committee. Publication of submissions includes loading them onto the internet and their being available to other interested parties including the media. Persons making submissions must not release them without the approval of the Committee. Submissions are covered by parliamentary privilege but the unauthorised release of them is not protected.

Following consideration of submissions, the Committee will hold public hearings. The Committee will consider all submissions and may invite individuals and organisations to give evidence at the public hearings.

Information relating to Senate Committee inquiries, including notes to assist in the preparation of submissions for a Committee, can be located on the internet at [http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/wit\\_sub/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/wit_sub/index.htm)

For further details contact the Committee Secretary, Phone: (02) 6277 3515, Fax: (02) 6277 5829.  
E-mail: [community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au)