

Thank you for your time in reading my submission.

I have significant experience as an underage drinker. I went to school in Canberra and in the mid 80s at age 15, it was extremely easy to obtain drink and cheap enough for there to be no financial impediment to heavy drinking.

I had a group of older friends and they were more than happy to organise supply on my behalf, on the odd occasion that I was actually refused service.

My main point is that while I have turned into a very moderate drinker as an adult (on average a couple of drinks a week), some of the gentlemen that I drank with as a youth went the other way (one in particular springs to mind) and they struggle today with the serious disease that is alcoholism.

I think the most significant difference between me and my friend David the alcoholic is that I had role models (both family and friends) who demonstrated responsible drinking to me.

All of the stupidest things I have done in my life have been under the influence of alcohol and I know now that whatever satisfaction there is in heavy drinking, it's simply not worth the trouble.

With all of that in mind, I would like to

- a) commend the Senate for conducting this enquiry
- b) heartily endorse plans to limit alcohol advertising (especially advertising that links it with sporting and/or sexual success)
- c) encourage the Senate to do everything in its power to limit liquor trading hours and police licensing restrictions
- d) do everything possible to put alcohol out of the financial reach of the young, including if necessary, increasing taxes.

In the same manner as poker machines, attractively advertised and easily available alcohol is no temptation for many people, but for some it's a life sentence.

It's for these life sentencers that I encourage you to put in place the restrictions you propose.

Yours Sincerely,

Malcolm Pryor.