



MEDIA RELEASE

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Most Victorians support new law to reduce underage drinking

The Victorian Government proposal to introduce new secondary supply of alcohol legislation is backed by the majority of Victorian adults, a survey shows.

The new law means that young people under the legal purchase age can not be given alcohol by another adult without their parents' knowledge and permission.

The Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) public opinion survey¹ reveals 87 per cent of Victorians support or strongly support banning the supply of alcohol to minors without parental consent. Parents were even more likely to agree – at 91 per cent.

“This legislation has widespread support. We know a significant majority of the population is behind the Victorian Government’s plans for the legislation. A Victorian Parliamentary Committee recommended this law in 2006, and similar laws are already in place in New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania,” Alcohol Policy Coalition spokesman Geoff Munro said.

“The State Government has made a wise decision to take action to reduce risky drinking among Victoria’s children,” he said. “Nearly half of 17-year-olds who drink alcohol are drinking at risky levels. It’s too easy for young people to access alcohol without their parents’ knowledge,” said Mr Munro.

“This law will make adults think twice before they provide someone else’s child with alcohol, because they would be legally accountable.

“Any move that enables parents to more effectively control their children’s contact with alcohol has our support.”

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The Alcohol Policy Coalition is a collaboration of health agencies – Australian Drug Foundation, Cancer Council Victoria, Heart Foundation (Victoria), Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre and VicHealth – with shared concern relating to the misuse of alcohol and its health/social impacts on the community.

www.alcoholpolicycoalition.org.au

¹ VicHealth Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI) research – conducted with 1500 Victorian adults in November 2009 (secondary supply results previously unreleased).