



# Alcohol Policy Coalition



## **VICTORIAN ALCOHOL POLICY ROADMAP WEBINAR SERIES**

### **WEBINAR 3: SECONDARY SUPPLY LAWS**

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# Secondary Supply Laws



**Regulation of the supply of alcohol to minors**

# Secondary Supply Laws



- Relates to the supply of alcohol to a minor in a private residence.
- Secondary supply laws require that a person must have the permission of a parent or guardian before they supply alcohol to a minor in a private residence.
- Introduced because of the risks of alcohol consumption for young people.
- These laws are in addition to the restrictions on the sale of alcohol to minors on licensed premises and are designed to protect young people in private settings.

# Victoria vs other states



## Victoria

- Permission required to supply alcohol to a minor;
- No legal requirement that the supply must be responsible or supervised
- NOTE: South Australia and Western Australia do not currently prohibit the secondary supply of alcohol to minors.

## NSW, Tasmania, Queensland and Northern Territory

- **Supply of alcohol to a minor must be responsible**
- This can refer to:
  - the amount of alcohol;
  - accompanied by food; and
  - appropriate supervision, during and after consumption.
- NOTE: Legislative amendments to introduce a responsibility requirement are currently before the NSW Parliament and are expected to pass shortly.

# Law reform in Victoria



- There is a need to change the law in Victoria to introduce a legal requirement for supply to be responsible
- Currently in Victoria, once permission is granted by a parent/guardian for alcohol to be supplied to their child, there is no legal requirement for that supply to be responsible or supervised.
- Currently young people can be given an unlimited amount of alcohol

# Why is youth drinking a concern?



- Historically, Australia's have had a relaxed attitude about the supply of alcohol to young people in the belief that they would “learn” to drink safely;
- We now know, this leads to drinking more and more often when not supervised;
- Increased risk of developing alcohol problems later in life.
- Consistent with the National Health and Medical Research Council Guidelines the priority now is to help young people avoid consuming alcohol as much as possible and when they do drink, to drink as little as possible.
- <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/publications/attachments/ds10-alcohol.pdf>

# YOUTH DRINKING CULTURE



**What influences youth drinking?**

# Youth drinking culture







## Influences:

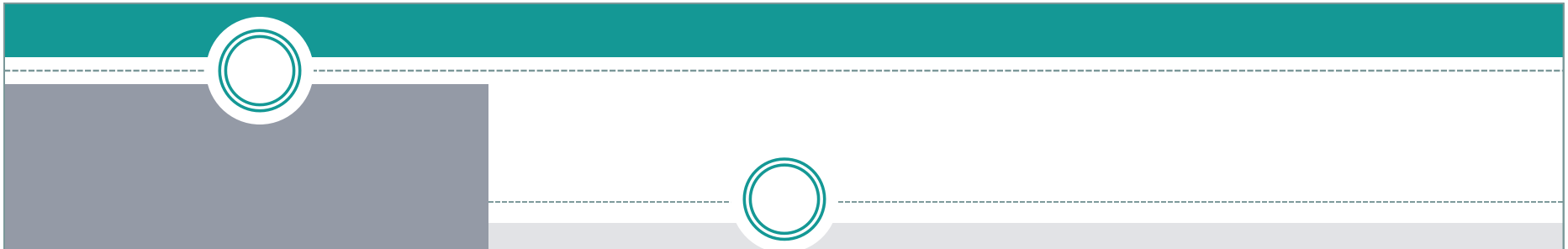
- Traditionally Australia has a heavy drinking culture;
- General acceptance of youth drinking;
- Wide-spread supply of alcohol by parents in the belief this was protective;
- Bombardment of young people by positive messages about alcohol consumption:
  - Sponsorship of sport and cultural events and wide-spread alcohol advertisement.



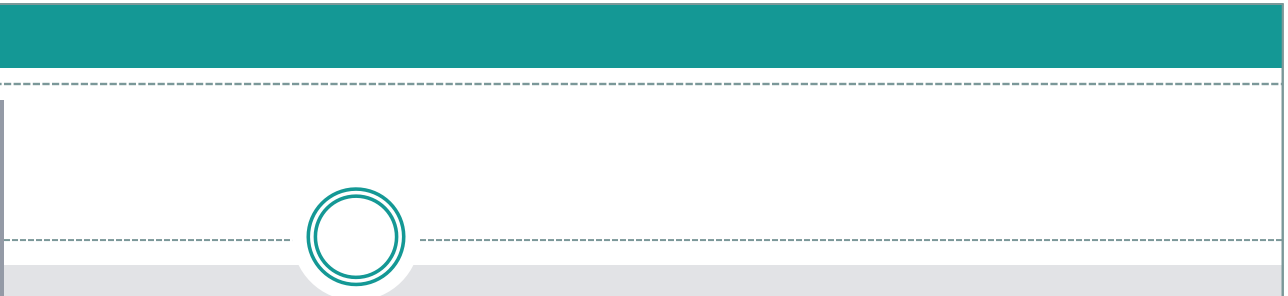
# The effect of secondary supply laws



- High levels of awareness of the law 
- There has been enforcement – infringement notices issued 
  - Parental permission is being sought
- Youth drinking in Victoria has reduced, (contributed to by the law); 
  - The age of first drink has increased;
- The law has worked in combination with higher levels of awareness in the community of the harms associated with young people consuming alcohol and the need to reduce young people's access to alcohol. 



## Effect of secondary supply laws on Victoria's drinking culture

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- strong educative effect
  - recognition of the risks of providing alcohol to young people
  - promoting parental control

# Alcohol use by young people



- Positive trends in youth drinking culture;
- Good sports program shown to reduce harmful drinking;

## Still more to do:

- Need a strong social marketing campaign to educate the public about the harms of alcohol;
  - Coupled with stronger marketing controls on alcohol advertising and sponsorship
- Need to address alcohol availability (venue density, trading hours and price).