



Ref: CE2015/06467

Office of the Chief Executive
Education Centre
31 Flinders Street
Adelaide SA 5000
GPO Box 1152
Adelaide SA 5001
DX 541

Mr T.R Anderson QC
Consumer and Business Services
GPO Box 1719
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Email: CBSReforms@sa.gov.au

Dear Mr Anderson

I refer to your correspondence inviting a submission from the Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) regarding the review of the *Liquor Licensing Act 1997*.

The Act has not been identified by the department as problematic. This is possibly the result of alcohol supply in and through schools being largely non-existent.

The department has established policies and guidelines for schools regarding alcohol. The policy document, *Intervention Matters (2011)* states 'that the supply of alcohol to a person under 18 years in a public place, such as a school or hotel, is illegal. Staff should not consume alcohol whilst holding duty of care responsibilities.' This establishes expectations regarding the supply and use of alcohol in schools.

Schools, through existing policies, are directed to seek further information regarding any activity related to the provision of alcohol (to adults only). Examples of such activities include on-site school functions (e.g. graduation balls), school fundraisers (e.g. sale of wine to parents), and wine tastings by local producers or school produced wine. Prior to any event supplying alcohol, schools and governing councils are directed to review the liquor licensing regulations.

The limited liquor licence, available to schools at no cost, is not burdensome. It requires good planning on behalf of sites to ensure the licence has been secured well in advance of the event. Most schools however do not supply alcohol in any form.

The department is concerned with the supply of alcohol to minors, especially at private parties as described in the discussion paper. No amount of alcohol is safe for minors and potentially damages children's and young people's brains, impacting their learning. Regulating consumption and possession of alcohol by minors is a strategy worth exploring. It should be supported by appropriate education, strong public health campaigns and environments that provide non-drinking alternatives, through a comprehensive health promotion approach.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Harrison'.

Tony Harrison
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

25 January 2016