



## Background

Encounter Youth is a positive influence on young people in the community. As a not-for-profit charitable organisation, Encounter Youth provides direct relief to young people facing serious social challenges. We achieve this by working collaboratively with the community and providing effective programs, professional management of volunteers and engaging education.

Since 1999, Encounter Youth has managed the annual school leaver (Schoolies Festival™) mass gathering in Victor Harbor. Encounter Youth's Schoolies Festival™ management is the only non-government led and non-government funded response in Australia. It is widely recognised as the safest and most successful Schoolies management strategy in the country. This has been achieved in part through the coordination of over 700 volunteers from Christian churches – known as the Encounter Youth Green Team.

Following an invitation from South Australia Police, Encounter Youth has also been working to improve the safety of young people utilising the popular nightspot of Hindley Street. Since July 2011, every Saturday night between the hours of 11:30pm and 5:00am, Encounter Youth Green Team volunteers offer a hands-on service to the community that directly relieves the harms associated with challenging social environments facing young people. Encounter Youth collaborates with key stakeholders in this precinct, not only on Saturday nights, but also at a project level, to influence late night safety in direct support of young people and the community.

Encounter Youth is also the largest provider of alcohol and other drug education to schools in South Australia. In 2016 this program was delivered to over 17,000 students, parents, school staff, and other members of the community. The interactive seminars give young people, parents/guardians and other participants a chance to learn what is currently happening in relation to young people and parties and express their opinions on celebrating safety.

Encounter Youth provided a submission in the initial public consultation and contributed to further consultation with the Hon Timothy Anderson QC in March 2016. We were pleased to see many of the recommendations that we made in our submission incorporated into Mr Anderson's review and subsequently accepted by the South Australian Government. We welcome the opportunity to provide further comment on the draft legislation to amend the *Liquor Licensing Act 1997*.

## Encounter Youth

23 Valmai Ave, Kings Park SA 5034  
T. 08 8179 0300 | F. 08 8172 0751  
enquiry@encounteryouth.com.au  
encounteryouth.com.au



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## **Comments on the draft *Liquor Licensing (Liquor Review) Amendment Bill 2016***

### *1. Amendment of the objects of the Act*

Encounter Youth supports the amendment of the objects of the Act, described in the amended section 3(1), particularly the updated focus on harm minimisation. The focus on community expectations, safety, the potential risk to young and vulnerable people, and the adverse effects alcohol consumption can have on a person's health are all to be commended.

### *2. Introduction of secondary supply laws*

As an organisation that works closely with young people, Encounter Youth are aware of the harm that alcohol can cause, particularly for minors. As a result, we welcome the introduction of secondary supply laws for South Australia. However, we do have concern for some of the provisions under the new section 110A. In particular, subsection (4) specifies where the secondary supply provisions do not apply. We support the provision for a responsible adult (as defined in section 109C) to decide if minor under their care is permitted to consume liquor. However, we are concerned about the provision for an authorised adult to supply alcohol to a minor, provided they have obtained consent of a responsible adult. Our main concern is that it is not specified how the consent of the responsible adult is to be obtained. We believe that in situations where an authorised adult is responsible for the supply of liquor and supervision of the minor, written consent should be obtained from a responsible adult. This would assist in ensuring compliance, particularly in situations where the responsible adult is not present. This would include formal after-parties, and 'schoolies' type events where young people are exposed to significant risk of harm due to inappropriate consumption of alcohol.

### *3. Enforcement of compliance with new legislation in relation to minors*

Encounter Youth are in support of the new provisions in sections 135A and 135B in regards to the establishment of a public Minors Non-Compliance Register. Furthermore, we are in support of the addition of Section 119B, giving the Commissioner power to take disciplinary action against a prescribed licensee (as defined in section 119B, subsection (8)), especially in relation to the supply of alcohol to minors by a licensee.

## **Conclusion**

Encounter Youth commend the majority of changes proposed by the South Australian Government. We believe that the changes will promote a safer drinking culture in South Australia, particularly for young and vulnerable persons. We thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this review.

Kind Regards,

Andrew Scholefield  
Education Officer  
Encounter Youth Inc.