



Australian Hotels Association
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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Media Release

17 September 2012

Alcohol related crime in Goldfields down 50%

Secret WA Police data reveals current strategies to prevent alcohol related violence in the Goldfields are working, and emphatically shows proposed restrictions on alcohol sales in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Coolgardie, and Kambalda are unduly harsh, according to Australian Hotels Association (WA) CEO Bradley Woods.

“WA Police data released after submissions into Goldfields liquor restrictions closed, shows a strong downward trend of up to a 50% reduction in alcohol related offences in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Coolgardie, and Kambalda over the past 3 years,” said AHA(WA) CEO Bradley Woods.

“The Police’s own data on alcohol related crime show there is no need for the harsh restrictions on alcohol in the Goldfields currently being considered by the Department of Racing Gaming and Liquor (DRGL).

“A question tabled in the WA Legislative Council on 28 June 2012 was answered in Parliament 2 ½ months later, on Tuesday 11 September 2012, after the submissions to the DRGL closed. The answer contained data extracted from the WA Police Incident Management System on 06/07/2012, identified a strong downward trend over the past three years showing that alcohol related offences, including assault, domestic assault and disorderly conduct offences, have reduced up to 50%.

“The fact that the Police held this data back until after final submissions to the DRGL on the proposed restrictions had closed, is very disturbing.

“It is disappointing that despite a comprehensive Freedom of Information (FOI) request by the AHA, this additional information was withheld from the AHA when preparing our final submission to the DRGL.

“Very serious questions have to be asked of the WA Police in relation to this matter.



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“Why was the information withheld until after submissions on the proposed restrictions had closed?”

“Why would the Police propose to DRGL such draconian restrictions on alcohol sales in the Goldfields, when their own data clearly shows the current strategies are successful?”

“What is the WA Police’s true agenda here?”

“Are the Police proposing to punish the whole Goldfields community because of their own internal resourcing and work hour rostering issues?”

The question asked was:

<http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/parliament/pquest.nsf/Parliament/pquest.nsf/SrchQON/584ADEA1D431BCFF48257A2B00241FD9?opendocument>

Question Directed to the: Minister for Energy representing the Minister for Police

I refer the Minister to tables four to 24 inclusive in the Kalgoorlie/Boulder Report on Alcohol-related Harm and Disorder presented by WA Police Report to the Director of Liquor Licensing, dated May 2012, and ask —

Of the alcohol related offences referred to in these tables —

- (a) how many individuals were involved in the years cited in each table;
- (b) how many repeat offenders were there in each of those years for each table; and
- (c) what is the total of offences by repeat offenders in each year for each table?

Answer:

[http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/publications/tables/papers.nsf/displaypaper/3814899c9d7663de0b22b65148257a7700066078/\\$file/4899.pdf](http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/publications/tables/papers.nsf/displaypaper/3814899c9d7663de0b22b65148257a7700066078/$file/4899.pdf)

An extract is below:



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Distinct Offenders Processed

Tables 4, 8, 12, 17 and 21 - Total Selected Verified Offences

Alcohol Related

		2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Locality	Kalgoorlie	261	217	120
	Boulder	120	134	76
Sub-District	Kalgoorlie	458	422	247
	Coolgardie	55	31	18
	Kambalda	22	8	12

Ends

For further information please contact Chuck Ellis, AHA (WA) Public Affairs Manager on 08 9321 7701, pubaff@ahawa.asn.au or 0410 503 301.