



Australian Hotels Association
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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F.A.S fight requires alcohol ban on pregnant women

The Australian Hotels Association (WA) has called for the WA State Government to immediately implement legislation making the sale and supply of alcohol to pregnant women in Halls Creek, and the consumption of alcohol by pregnant women in Halls Creek illegal.

AHA (WA) CEO, Bradley Woods, has called for the ban after local health professionals raised serious concerns that excessive alcohol consumption by some pregnant women in Halls Creek was leading to high rates of Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS).

Mr Woods implored the WA Director of Liquor Licensing and the WA Government to legislate and directly stop the sale, supply and consumption of alcohol by pregnant women in Halls Creek.

“Licensees of liquor stores and hotels cannot legally refuse service to someone on the basis that they are pregnant, or refuse service to someone suspected of supplying liquor to pregnant women,” Mr Woods said.

“It is a terrible tragedy that any child should be born with foetal alcohol syndrome and recent debate on the issue indicates that it is unfortunately a growing problem in some areas of the State.

“If we want to seriously prevent another generation of children suffering FAS, we must act now to stop at-risk, pregnant women living in Halls Creek from consuming alcohol.”

Mr Woods has suggested that stopping the flow of alcohol to pregnant women required a number of Government strategies including;

- Enabling legislation to allow licensees to refuse the sale of alcohol to pregnant women;
- Making it illegal to supply alcohol to a pregnant woman and;
- Making it illegal for pregnant woman to drink alcohol

"We need legislation to be in place so that we can refuse to sell alcohol to a specifically at-risk section of the community, namely pregnant women, without breaking State or Federal laws," he said.

"What's more, our law makers should also make it illegal for a pregnant woman in Halls Creek to consume alcohol or for other people, such as family members, to supply alcohol to them."

Mr Woods said he hoped the proposal would receive support from government, health groups and aboriginal leaders in Halls Creek.

"We all want to achieve the same thing. It is time to stop talking about this issue and actually introduce targeted measures to put a stop to FAS," he said.

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For further information please contact Doug White, AHA Manager Media and Public Affairs 0403 801 260 or 9321 7701.