Drug and Alcohol Awareness

St Philips College, 7th September 2016
Presented by: Danny Bell, Youth and Community Engagement
Alice Springs Police
Overview

• Alcohol plays a major part in life in the Northern Territory.
• Alcohol and drug problems are not restricted to particular groups in our community – the problem is across the board.
• Young people are exposed to drug and alcohol use at a very young age.
• Alcohol and Drug misuse are strongly linked to young people becoming involved in the criminal justice system.
• Alcohol and Drug misuse are strongly linked to young people suffering physical and mental harm and premature or accidental death.
• Your alcohol or drug use will directly impact on the drug and alcohol habits of your children.
Talking Points

• Offences that are most commonly associated with drug and alcohol use and misuse, including offences related to the supply of alcohol to underage persons.

• Safe Party options and the legal risks associated with a failure to properly plan a party.
‘Minors’ and Alcohol

What is a Minor?

A minor is a person who has not reached the age of 18 years.
Can A Minor Legally Drink Alcohol?

Yes.....

BUT CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS APPLY
Northern Territory Liquor Act

106C Offence relating to irresponsible sale or supply of liquor to children

(1) A person must not sell or otherwise supply liquor to a child unless:

(a) the person is a responsible adult for the child; and

(b) the sale or supply is consistent with the responsible supervision of the child.
• **IMPORTANTLY**: even if the supply of this alcohol is done by a responsible adult / parent but is not accompanied with ‘responsible supervision’, the supplier may still be prosecuted.

What is Responsible Supervision?

• The following matters must be taken into account in considering whether the supply is consistent with the responsible supervision of the child:
  • (a) whether the adult is drunk;
  • (b) whether the child is drunk;
  • (c) the age of the child;
  • (d) whether the child is consuming the liquor with food;
  • (e) whether the adult is responsibly supervising the child's consumption of the liquor;
  • (f) the quantity of, and the period over which, the liquor was supplied.
Who is A Responsible Adult?

- *responsible adult*, for a child, means each of the following:
  - (a) an adult who is a parent, step-parent or guardian of the child;
  - (b) an adult who has parental rights and responsibilities for the child.
Supply Of Liquor To Minors on Licensed Premises

Can a Minor Be Legally Supplied with Liquor On Licensed Premises?

**NO.**

- 106CA Sale or supply of liquor to, or consumption or possession of, liquor by children on licensed premises (1) Despite any other provisions of this Act, a person must not:
  - (a) sell or otherwise supply liquor to a child on licensed premises; or
  - (b) permit someone else to sell or otherwise supply liquor to a child on licensed premises; or
  - (c) engages in conduct that results in a child being sold or otherwise supplied with liquor, or consuming liquor, on licensed premises.
Drink and Drug Driving

- Northern Territory has – by a very long way - the highest drink driving rate in Australia, per head of population.
- The death rate per head of population in the Northern Territory from road crashes is also significantly higher than any other state. This statistic is across all sectors of the community and alcohol and drug use is a causal factor in large numbers of these.
- Young People are subject to various restrictions on their licence in relation to alcohol (and drug) use, as per the normal Learner and Provisional Drivers licence restrictions.
Random Alcohol Testing

- Police can stop a vehicle randomly and conduct alcohol testing on the driver or a person suspected of driving.
- The legal limit for a driver of a vehicle with a full licence (that is not a commercial vehicle or a heavy vehicle) is 0.05 grams of alcohol per 100ml of blood.
- The legal limit for young people who are on their L’s or P’s is 0.000.
- Drink driving offences carry very heavy penalties including large fines, licence disqualifications and prison terms.
- Convictions for drink or drug driving offences can seriously impact on employment opportunities or the ability for people to continue their employment.
Random Drug Testing

- Police can stop any vehicle at any time while driving on a road or road related area for the purpose of conducting a random DRUG TEST.
- Random drug testing is relatively new in the Northern Territory.
- It is done using an initial saliva screening test, followed by a blood test if necessary.
- The initial test picks up the presence of cannabis and amphetamine. The blood test does a more thorough drug screen, testing for the presence of all drugs.
- A positive saliva test can result in an immediate 24 hour drivers licence suspension and subsequent fines and licence disqualifications once the results of the blood test is known.
- These tests are also conducted after people are involved in road crashes or those who Police suspect are under the influence of drugs.
Other Common Alcohol and Drug Related Offences

- Alcohol is a factor in many incidents reported to police. Some of the more common offences regularly linked with alcohol or drug misuse include:

- **Drink Spiking:** This is known to occur at both licensed premises and commonly at parties at non-licensed premises. It is often committed by people who intend to commit more serious offending, usually sexually oriented. Drink spiking is an offence against the NT Criminal Code Act and carries a penalty of up to 2 years imprisonment.

- **Assaults and Sexual Assaults:** Assaults and sexual assaults are often linked to alcohol and drug misuse. People become more likely to be a victim of these offences when intoxicated as they become far more vulnerable, particularly females. Drunken fights are common and dangerous and occur even between friends who are under the influence. The penalties for assault and sexual assault offences are very significant and involve lengthy prison terms.
• **Social Order Offending**: These are offences such as disorderly, offensive or indecent behaviour and failing to quit licensed premises upon request. People who commit these offences are highly likely to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs and they will often be young. While unlikely to attract a prison term, these offences attract large fines and more often than not result in the offender spending time in police custody in the watch house.

• Any conviction for any of these types of offences can have a significant impact on a young persons ability to gain employment in certain fields, and to travel to various countries around the world. The USA, Canada and many South American countries have strict rules and regulations around the issue of a visa to anyone with criminal convictions for assault, theft or drug charges or any offence where there is an imprisonment for 6 months or more.

• A criminal record can be for life, unless an application to have it expunged is successful. Regardless, this can not occur within 10 years.
Safe Parties

• If you are hosting a party for your children, or your children are hosting a party at your premises it is vital that you pre-plan and set rules and guidelines.

• **Social media provides unwanted guests with the opportunity to quickly learn of the party and then to attend – and potentially cause trouble.**

• Ensure there is an invite process and stick to it.

• Have a plan around the presence of alcohol and stick to the plan.

• **Supervision is the key to a safe party.**

• Register the party with the NT Police through the Party Safe program.

• Be aware of the criminal legal implications of supplying minors with alcohol.

• Be aware of the civil legal implications should someone get injured or harmed at a party being hosted by you or your family.
WHY????
Daryl Horner, 15, died after being urged to drink home brew

BY MICHAEL OWEN, MICHAEL MILNES AND JOANNA VAUGHAN  THE DAILY TELEGRAPH
AUGUST 04, 2008 12:00AM

A 15-YEAR-OLD boy who passed out after being egged on to scull a second bottle of home-made ouzo at a party died in hospital.

Daryl Horner was with friends at the unsupervised party of about 60 teenagers on Saturday night when he dropped on to the floor.

The boy initially was taken to a friend’s house before being taken ambulance to hospital, where he died.

A friend Jessica Beveridge, 17, said Daryl had been drinking at the party when he “got into some home-brew ouzo”.

“He sculled the first bottle and then some people were egging him on to scull the next one,” Jessica said.

“He did and within 20 minutes he’d passed out.”

Daryl’s father, Brenton, 53, who lives at Terowie, 20km south of where the party was at in Peterbrough, 245km north of Adelaide, South Australia, yesterday said police investigations could reveal something “worse than we all first assumed”.

UNCLASSIFIED
Town devastated over teen drinking death

Updated 4 Aug 2008, 7:30pm

A spokeswoman for the Peterborough High School says the entire school is saddened by the death of a student at the weekend.

Daryl Horner, 15, died at the Peterborough Hospital after reportedly consuming a large volume of a home-made spirit at a party on Saturday night.

The school's district director, Marie O'Toole, says education authorities in the area have been running a program about the dangers of drugs and alcohol for year eight to ten students.

"This school in particular has had a really healthy health and wellbeing program over time," she said.

"They've also had some programs run with the health services in the district focused on safe partying and very much focused on the issues that are relevant right now."

The mayor of Peterborough, Ruth Whittle, says town residents are devastated.

"The whole community itself is very sad," she said.

"I mean the loss of a 15-year-old boy has a dreadful affect on a community."

Ms Whittle says it's not the first alcohol-related death of a young person from the area but she says she hopes it will serve as a warning to other people of the dangers of excessive drinking.

Police say a post-mortem will be carried out to find the exact cause of death.
Binge drinking 'killing two teens a week'

Drug and Alcohol Services SA says there are about two deaths a week in Australia involving young people who have been binge-drinking.

Teenager Daryl Horner, 15, died at Peterborough in the mid north of South Australia at the weekend reportedly after drinking home-brewed alcohol.

Keith Evans, from Drug and Alcohol Services, says the death is a tragic reminder of the need to prevent underage drinking.

"We are seeing across Australia around about two deaths a week in relation to young people who are heavily intoxicated," he said.

"I mean it's obviously eminently preventable - this is a real tragedy, a tragedy for that family but we really do have to change this culture that says it's ok to drink to get drunk and, at 15, it's not ok to drink at all."
• Daryl Horner died because he consumed lethal quantities of alcohol.
• He was at a party without appropriate supervision.
• He was at a party where no one was able to identify that he needed urgent medical attention.
• His friends didn’t know what to do and thought they would take him to another address - they didn’t initially call an ambulance.
• It is believed that had he received medical attention as soon as he collapsed, that he would have survived the incident.
• He was at a party which had not been well planned.
Paris Turkington: Personal injury damages claim for $11.8 million after

Kay Dibben, The Courier-Mail
July 22, 2016 6:30am

A TEENAGER severely burnt when she was engulfed in flames after a boy threw accelerant on a backyard fire is suing a mother for $11.8 million for failing to supervise a party.

Paris Turkington, then 16, was at a Toowoomba home in August 2013 when the boy, 15, who was not invited to the party, poured accelerant on a brazier fire.
Party Smart

Remember that it is your party and you have the right to set the standard of acceptable behaviour and to see that it is maintained - you also have the right to ask people to leave.

Contact your local police IMMEDIATELY on 131 444 should trouble occur or in an EMERGENCY call 000.

PARTY SMART REGISTRATION FORM

Please fill this form and drop it into your local police station at least 7 days prior to event. For further information, please contact the Neighbourhood Watch Support & Liaison Officer on 8999 0497.

PARTY ORGANISER
Name: 
Residential address: 
Phone number: (Mobile) (AH) (EH) (Fax) 
Email:
Party Most Ages: (if adult please indicate) 
Full Name of Parents/Guardians (if applicable) 

PARTY INFORMATION
Day and Date of Party: 
Start Time: 
Finish Time: 
Address of Party: 
The Party will be held: ☐ inside ☐ outside ☐ both 
Type of Premise: (House, Terrace, Unit, Hall etc.) 
Contact Name at Party: 
Contact Phone Number at Location: 
Type of Party (eg. Birthday, Graduation, 21st etc.): 
Expected number of Guests: 

Name: 
Signed: 
Date: 

Thank you for notifying NT Police about your party. Please remember to inform Police if your party gets postponed, relocated or cancelled.
SUPPLY FOOD & DRINK – NOT DRINK & DRINK
A key to great parties is balance – a mix of food and drink, a mix of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, a mix of things to do and be involved in.
Some tips for controlling smart parties might be:
• Provide a range of attractive and fun non-alcoholic or light alcohol drinks
• Encourage the first drink to be non-alcoholic
• Provide a range of food for the night—not all salty snacks. Change it around, e.g.: bring out some platters of warm food; later do the rounds with cheeses or sweet nibbles.
• Don’t have parents or supervisors spend all night ‘locked away from the party. Be seen. Be discreet, but be seen.
• Encourage designated drivers, or better still, provide them yourself. Being strict in not letting intoxicated people drive is a lot better than getting worse news the next day.

WINDING DOWN
Sometimes, the most dangerous times at a party are at the end of a night. You can minimise the risks if you have a plan to end the party. Consider:
• Make sure everyone knows what time the party will end, and arrange transport in advance for those that need it.
• Stop serving alcohol an hour before the scheduled end time.
• Start serving tea/coffee and good late-night foods.
• Wind down the music and turn lights on twenty minutes before the departure time.
• A good ‘exit strategy’ is just as important as planning a smart party.

IF THINGS GET WORSE – HAVE A BACK UP PLAN
If these ideas don’t help, or something truly unexpected happens, like numerous aggressive gatecrashers, have a back-up plan ready for action.
This should include:
• More than one responsible host who can deal with a situation
• A first aid kit stocked and on-hand
• The availability of a car and driver
• The numbers for all emergency services close at hand, including the police and ambulance.
• A plan to leave the building through multiple exits.
• If, despite all this, things look even remotely like they will get out of hand, CALL THE POLICE.
Remember, at this stage you’ve done everything you can to make sure everyone has a great time, partying smart. But there are some situations where you should not hesitate to involve experts. Sometimes, the threat of police involvement is enough to deter any further mishap.

CONTACT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
SUPPORT AND LIAISON OFFICER
ON 8999 0847 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Disclaimer
Northern Territory Police Force has a vital interest in ensuring the safety of members of the community and their property. By using recommendations contained in this pamphlet, any person who does so acknowledges that it is not possible to make areas absolutely safe for the community or their property.
The NT Police Force hopes that by using recommendations contained within this pamphlet, anti-social behaviour will be reduced and the safety of members of the community and their property will be increased. However, it does not guarantee that the area will be free from criminal activity if its recommendations are followed.
PARTY TIME!

A great party can be something everyone will enjoy and talk about for years afterwards.

But a party that goes wrong will be talked about too, for all the wrong reasons.

No-one wants a bad party. The trick is to party smart.

Take a browse through the information in this brochure. There are a few simple steps you can take before and during the party that’ll help make it the great time we all want. It’s for parents and supervisors as well as guests and teenage hosts.

Most of all, it’s about having fun.

BEFORE THE PARTY
To party or not to party?

One of the very first questions to be addressed is whether to party or not at all. With some of the horror stories out there, it can be easy to say no to a party. Or, sometimes parents can say yes too quickly. So the first step is:

THINK IT THROUGH THEN TALK IT THROUGH
If you’re a parent, give yourself time to think before making a decision. Then talk through all the issues with the kids. Involve them. Get their buy-in. When you’ve reached an agreement, you can go forward together to make it happen.

SET THE GROUND RULES RIGHT FROM THE START
Once you’ve reached an agreement to have a party, and what rules you won’t compromise on, the next step is planning.

PLAN THE PARTY – THEN PARTY TO THE PLAN
This is the first really important step to hosting a great party. Proper planning goes an awful long way to avoiding problems later on. The first thing to consider is:

THE GUEST LIST ISN’T A GUESS LIST
Plan exactly who you’ll invite and have an RSVP register, send them a formal invitation in writing and avoid systems like the Internet or online notice boards, SMS or email distribution lists. Tell invitees to bring their invitation and encourage guests not to invite other friends. Include definite start and finish times.

You wouldn’t let just anyone into your home at other times, so don’t do it now.

SERVING ALCOHOL
Be aware that it is an offence for alcohol to be served or provided to people under the age of 18. Decide on the drinks policy (and stick to it)

Few things cause as much concern (or lead to as much trouble) as uncontrolled drinking at parties. Hosts should decide, right up front, what the policy on drinking should be before sending the invitations. You can then inform guests about what they can expect.

For example:
- No BYO
- Drinks will only be served by an adult, not freely available
- Intoxicated persons will not be given alcohol
- Encourage designated drivers to be present

Should you decide to allow guests to bring their own alcohol, avoid providing open containers that can be ‘spiked’ or used to disguise the level of alcohol being consumed.

If under 18’s do consume alcohol, contact their parents and have them collected from the party.

PICK A VENUE AND SET IT UP
Most parties are at home but if you are considering a larger party you should also think about hiring a hall or room. Think about getting the right venue for the sort of party you’re planning, and set it up to minimise trouble.

- Have only one official entry point, which is supervised (have other emergency exits)
- Keep the alcohol serving area small, away from the door and close to lots of food and alternate drinks
- Allow a delegated place for smokers
- Don’t allow people to gather on front lawns or public spaces.
- Arrange a safe place for bags and coats and lock away items that can be broken or damaged like the TV, laptop, jewellery etc.

NOTIFY THE NEIGHBOURS
It is good sense and good manners to tell your neighbours about the party you are planning. You can even invite them.

You should also consider registering the event as a “Smart Party” at your local police station. It is also sensible to check on the noise laws and general regulations for the area you are having a party in.

SET THE TONE AT THE DOOR:
Greet your guests and check their invitations. Set the tone of the party right at the start. After all, it’s better to stop problems before they start than deal with them after. Some suggestions:

- Have guests arrive through a single entry point
- If in place, enforce the no BYO rule; keep the alcohol where it can be collected later.
- If you can, have some kind of security or responsible friend at the door to discourage unwelcome gatecrashers.

PARTY SMART, HAVE FUN!
Summary

• Alcohol is a part of the Australian, and particularly Northern Territory way of life.
• There are inherent risks associated with the misuse of alcohol and drugs, particularly by young people.
• A young person’s life can be seriously affected and directed by decisions they make at an early age. That decision-making process can be severely impacted through the use of alcohol and/or drugs.
• The supply of alcohol to a minor is a serious criminal offence, unless done by a parent or ‘responsible adult’ – in a responsible manner.
• Failing to provide appropriate supervision at a party can result in criminal charges and civil liability claims as well as other implications legally. It can also have unwanted consequences such as injury or death to those who attend.
• A planned and well thought out approach is required if hosting a party or supplying alcohol to a minor in your care.
Families should talk with their teenage children about the risks they are going to face as teenagers involving their own alcohol or drug use or the alcohol and drug use of their friends.

Outline these dangers and discuss and put in place strategies for them to be able to deal with a situation that they didn’t intend to or anticipate becoming involved in.

The ‘head in the sand’ approach is not a safe strategy.