

## ALCOHOL CONTRIBUTES TO THE THREE MAJOR CAUSES OF ADOLESCENT DEATHS

National Health and Medical Research Council. (2009). *Australian guidelines to reduce health risks from drinking alcohol*, Canberra: NHMRC

If you think your mate has had too much to drink – call Triple Zero 000 (or 112 on a mobile phone)

If someone passes out, becomes unconscious, vomits without waking up, has cold clammy pale skin and is breathing very slowly – they can die! Call an ambulance immediately.



## PENALTIES

The offences outlined in this brochure fall under the Liquor Act 2007. Under this Act, a \$1,100 on-the-spot penalty can be issued or you could be charged. Maximum penalty of \$11,000 and/or 12 months imprisonment can apply.

Penalties under the Summary Offences Act 1988 also apply in certain circumstance.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

[www.yourchoiceonline.com.au](http://www.yourchoiceonline.com.au)  
interactive program about the health, legal and social consequences of teenage drinking

<http://druginfo.adf.org.au>  
factual information about alcohol and other drugs

# UNDER AGE DRINKING OFFENCES

AWAY FROM LICENSED PREMISES\*



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\*Significant penalties also apply to the sale, consumption and provision of alcohol to U18s on licensed premises.

## DRINKING IN PUBLIC PLACES

You're under 18 and go to the park with a group of mates. Your parents let you take some alcohol to drink and share with your mates. Have you committed an offence?

Yes – as it is an offence for a person under the age of 18 to possess or consume any alcohol in a public place\*. You've also committed a separate offence every time you supply a friend under 18 with alcohol.

\*This is an offence under the Summary Offences Act 1988. All other actions are offences under the Liquor Act 2007.

## DRINKING AT A NON-LICENSED VENUE

You've been invited to an 18th at the local hall (you and many of your friends are under 18 years old). The hosts are supplying free beer and your mates are also bringing some alcohol. Has an offence been committed if you have some of your friend's alcohol and some of the alcohol provided by the hosts?

Yes - the hosts and your friends have committed an offence by supplying a person under 18 with alcohol.

## BUYING ALCOHOL FOR SOMEONE WHO IS UNDER 18

You're having a night out with some mates and you ask a friend, who is over 18, to buy you some alcohol. Your friend buys the alcohol for you. Have they committed an offence?

Yes –obtaining alcohol for a person under 18 years of age (minor) from a licensed premise or bottle shop is an offence.

## UNDER 18 BUYS ALCOHOL

It's the weekend and you're having a night out with your mates and you're all under 18. You buy some alcohol and take it back to share with your friends. Have you committed an offence?

Yes – you've committed an offence if you take the alcohol away from the shop. You have committed a separate offence if you give the alcohol to any of your friends. The licensed premise/shop will also have committed an offence.

**IN NEW SOUTH WALES YOU MUST BE 18 YEARS OF AGE TO PURCHASE OR RECEIVE ALCOHOL!**

## Under 18? Trying to buy alcohol using fake ID? DON'T RISK IT!

You could get:

- an on the spot fine of \$220
- a court appearance with a maximum penalty of \$2200
- an extra 6 months on your P-plates

## SUPPLYING ALCOHOL TO AN U18 AT HOMES OR ON UNLICENSED PREMISES

In NSW, it is illegal to provide alcohol to minors (people under the age of 18) on private property without parental permission. This is known as secondary supply.

If a person is charged with the offence of supplying alcohol to minors, it is a legal defence if they can prove they were authorised (had parental consent) to supply alcohol to the minor(s). The courts may also consider if the parental supervision was adequate and responsible at the time of the offence. This can include taking into account the age of the minor, whether the parent is intoxicated, whether the minor is consuming food with the alcohol, the quantity and type of alcohol and the time period over which alcohol is supplied.