Kalgoorlie Alcohol Action Project
The Painful Truth

Interventions that are popular usually don’t work,
Interventions that are unpopular are usually highly effective.
Interventions that have proven highly ineffective

- Restricting service to intoxicated patrons in licensed premises: responsible service of alcohol WITHOUT ENFORCEMENT.
- Restrictions implemented via liquor accords and community based programs WITHOUT ENFORCEMENT.
- Local ‘dry area’ bans
Interventions that need substantial ongoing support to work

- Restrictions on access to high risk alcohol beverages.
- Restrictions on the outlet density of licensed premises.
- Restricting service to intoxicated patrons in licensed premises: responsible service of alcohol WITH ENFORCEMENT.
- Restrictions implemented via liquor accords and community based programs WITH ENFORCEMENT.
- Mandatory packages of restrictions for remote and regional communities.
- Dry community declarations.
Interventions that are supported by strong evidence of their positive outcomes

- Restrictions on the economic availability of alcohol: taxation and pricing.
- Restrictions on hours and days of sale for licensed premises.
- Restrictions on legal drinking age for purchase or consumption of alcohol.
Key Factors for Positive Change

- Effective enforcement.
- Meeting the specific and changing needs of the target population.
- Community support, control and awareness of restrictions.
- Evidence based initiatives, situational suitability and evidence for outcomes.
Guiding principles for decision makers

- What is ‘best practice’?

- What is the most effective mix of restrictions?

- How to know if restrictions are working and what can be reasonable expected.
Conclusions

- We all (agencies, the liquor industry and community members) need to work together to sort out the problems associated with excessive drinking among a small group of people.

- We should only use evidence-based interventions and don’t waste time and resources of ineffective measures.

“All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing” (E. Burke)
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