

# Alcohol Implementation Plan 2015

Department of Police and Emergency Management



## **Alcohol Implementation Plan 2015**

The *Department of Police and Emergency Management (DPEM) Alcohol Implementation Plan 2015* is the fifth and final alcohol action plan under the *Rising Above the Influence: Tasmanian Alcohol Action Framework 2010-2015 (TAAF)*.

The goal of the TAAF is to improve individual and community safety and reduce human, health, economic and social costs associated with the misuse of alcohol. There is a shared responsibility for affecting change in alcohol use across government agencies, local councils, and non-government, community and industry sectors. Of greatest importance is the whole-of-community change necessary to prevent and minimise alcohol-related harm.

The *DPEM Alcohol Implementation Plan 2015* continues to build upon the strong foundation of action outlined in past plans, and it details activities that DPEM undertake to address alcohol-related harms in Tasmania. A conscious effort has been made in this plan to highlight areas of innovation that address alcohol-related matters, and it has been decided not to include aspects that are considered to be core business of Tasmania Police.

A new addition to the 2015 Plan is the formation of the Tasmania Police Public Safety Group (PSG), which provides an additional police presence focussed on the waterfront and other entertainment areas in the Hobart Division. This is in support of the Hobart Safer Streets Program, under which Tasmania Police, the Salvation Army and the Hobart City Council are focussing efforts on the Hobart waterfront area during Friday and Saturday nights.

A National Drug and Law Enforcement Research Fund (NDLERF) research project is being considered by this jurisdiction in 2015. *Drug and Alcohol intoxication and Subsequent Harm in night-time Entertainment Districts (DASHED)* uses the Hobart and Canberra entertainment precincts to examine the relationship between alcohol consumption, intoxication, substance use, crime and other risky behaviours, in and around licenced premises. Results from this research are likely to inform future alcohol government policy and responses to alcohol-related crime by law enforcement.

The *Liquor Licensing Act 2001* Review was conducted in 2014, and it is hoped that the identified areas to enhance the capacity of police to enforce liquor licensing laws are favourably considered and implemented by the Tasmania Government in 2015.

This plan demonstrates the ongoing commitment of this Department, and highlights the increasingly significant role that police play in the reduction of supply, demand and harms associated with the misuse of alcohol in the Tasmanian community.



**DL Hine**

Secretary

Department of Police and Emergency Management

## Tasmanian Alcohol Action Framework 2010-2015

Alcohol is an accepted part of Australian culture, social activity and the economy. When it is misused alcohol causes significant harm within communities, including preventable illness, death, injuries, motor vehicle accidents, assaults, family and social issues. Dealing with alcohol-related social harms presents a considerable challenge to law enforcement agencies, including Tasmania Police.

In early 2010, in an effort to address the social and health harms caused by alcohol, the Tasmanian Government released *Rising Above the Influence: The Tasmanian Alcohol Action Framework 2010-2015*. This Framework guides activities and partnerships between Government Agencies, Local Government, community sector organisations, and the liquor and hospitality industries.

The three key strategy areas of the Framework are:

- > Changing the drinking culture in Tasmania
- > An effective system for controlling the supply of alcohol
- > Providing effective interventions to deal with and prevent alcohol-related harm.

The Inter Agency Working Group on Drugs (IAWGD), as the peak advisory body for the Tasmanian Government on alcohol and other drug issues, is responsible for the overall implementation of the Framework. The IAWGD reports annually to the Tasmanian Government on the progress of the Framework through the Minister for Health. DPEM is represented on the IAWGD by the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Planning and Development.

The Alcohol Advisory Group (AAG) advises and supports the IAWGD on alcohol-related matters, and coordinates the development, implementation and monitoring of annual alcohol implementation plans for Government Agencies and non-government organisations.

## Key Strategy 1 - Changing the drinking culture in Tasmania

Key action area (of the Framework)	Intended actions	Key target for activity during the period	Timeframe (time limited or ongoing)	New / Continuation of existing	How will achievements be measured	Partners (who else is involved)
a. Developing social marketing and community-based campaigns to promote responsible alcohol consumption, effective harm-reduction strategies (such as legislative amendments, promoting the new NHMRC Alcohol Guidelines, the drink driving and driver education campaigns); and the responsibilities of the community, individuals and licensees (including targeted community education strategies for groups at greater risk of harm).	<p><u>Sale or Supply of Alcohol to Youths (Police Offences Act 1935)</u></p> <p>Dissemination of brochures and DVDs concerning legislation to regulate the supply of alcohol to persons under the age of 18 years, on private property.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tasmanian Government, Catholic and Independent Schools and Colleges</li> <li>Parents/guardians</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Continuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tasmanian Government, Catholic and Independent Schools and Colleges</li> </ul>
	<p><u>Industry partnerships</u></p> <p>Working with key stakeholders in the liquor industry to develop and maintain alcohol-related harm reduction strategies. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liquor Accords</li> <li>Lock-outs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Licensees</li> <li>Tasmanian Hospitality Association (THA)</li> <li>Local Government</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Continuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>THA</li> <li>Local Government Councils</li> <li>Licensees</li> <li>Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT)</li> </ul>
b. Promoting and supporting strategies in local communities by encouraging alcohol-free events and increasing the capacity of communities to undertake alcohol-related harm minimisation initiatives e.g. promoting alcohol-free events, particularly events targeting children or primarily/substantially attended by children.	<p><u>Media and Communications</u></p> <p>Focus on raising public awareness of policing issues associated with alcohol use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tasmanian community</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Continuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local media - print, electronic and digital</li> </ul>

## Key Strategy 2 - An effective system for controlling the supply of alcohol in Tasmania

Key action area (of the Framework)	Intended actions	Key target for activity during the period	Timeframe (time limited or ongoing)	New / Continuation of existing	How will achievements be measured	Partners (who else is involved)
a. Reviewing legislation to ensure there is appropriate and consistent legislative and regulatory framework to support the control and supply of alcohol, with an effective and systematic compliance enforcement regime, including mechanisms to deal with complaints about licensee activities and breaches in a timely, appropriate and transparent manner.	Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) training to Tasmania Police in Licensing and Road and Public Order (RPOS) positions to ensure they have the appropriate knowledge to enforce the liquor licensing laws.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tasmania Police officers</li> <li>Legislative framework</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Continuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Treasury and Finance - Liquor and Gaming Branch</li> </ul>
	Ongoing Departmental review of liquor licensing legislation to ensure Tasmania Police has appropriate capacity to deal with a range of alcohol-related issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legislative framework</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Continuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting of legislative amendments, and suggested amendments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Treasury and Finance - Liquor and Gaming Branch</li> </ul>
	Conduct Public Order and Safety Forum (POSF) meetings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tasmania Police officers</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Continuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Treasury and Finance - Liquor and Gaming Branch</li> </ul>
b. Reviewing legislation to provide the opportunity for police, Public Health, local councils and industry to provide input and influence the licensing process to ensure that the public health and wellbeing, community safety, planning and development, and economic impact are appropriately considered in licensing decisions.						
c. Supporting national initiatives aimed at reducing the levels of, and harms from intoxication, including alcohol pricing, advertising and promotion restrictions and warning label requirements.	<p>Ongoing commitment and input to a range of national strategies and committees, which focus on addressing the harms caused by alcohol and other drugs.</p> <p>This includes participation in the Inter-Governmental Committee on Drugs (IGCD) and IGCD Standing Committees, and reporting against activities under the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tasmania Police Corporate Management Group and senior officers</li> <li>Tasmanian community</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Continuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National reporting requirements</li> <li>Report on activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IGCD and IGCD Standing Committee members</li> </ul>

Key action area (of the Framework)	Intended actions	Key target for activity during the period	Timeframe (time limited or ongoing)	New / Continuation of existing	How will achievements be measured	Partners (who else is involved)
	<i>National Drug Strategy 2010-15 and the IGCD Alcohol Statement of Priorities 2014-16.</i>					
	<u>Inter-Agency Working Group on Drugs (IAWGD)</u> Participation in the development and review of a broad range of Tasmanian whole-of-government initiatives and activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tasmanian community and whole-of-government</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Continuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IAWGD member organisations</li> </ul>

### Key Strategy 3 - Providing effective interventions to deal with and prevent alcohol-related harm

Key action area (of the Framework)	Intended actions	Key target for activity during the period	Timeframe (time limited or ongoing)	New / Continuation of existing	How will achievements be measured	Partners (who else is involved)
a. Developing and enhancing strategies to address social determinants for risky drinking behaviour, including prevention and early intervention strategies and initiatives to identify and address risk factors for harmful alcohol use to mitigate the emergence or escalation of risky drinking behaviours.	Address the issue of alcohol-related violence and harm, using a range of policing strategies, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Road and Public Order Services (RPOS) continuing to provide a highly visible presence in and around entertainment precincts and other licensed premises.</li> <li>Licensing police continuing to work with the liquor industry and other stakeholders to monitor and reinforce compliance with Liquor License requirements (<i>Liquor Licensing Act 1990</i>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tasmanian community</li> <li>THA</li> <li>Liquor Licensees</li> </ul>	Ongoing and targeted operations	Continuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of public place assaults</li> <li>Number of alcohol-related family violence incidents (offender &amp; victim affected)</li> <li>Number of Liquor Infringement Notices (LINs) issued</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>THA</li> <li>Local Government Councils</li> <li>Local Government Association of Tasmania</li> </ul>
	Address the issue of alcohol-related violence and harms by the implementation of the Public Safety Group (PSG), which provides an additional police presence on Friday and Saturday nights, focussed on the waterfront and other entertainment areas in the Hobart Division.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tasmania community</li> </ul>	Commenced in October 2014	New	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KPIs to be confirmed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Salvation Army Street Teams Program</li> <li>Hobart City Council</li> </ul>
b. Establishing appropriate prevention and intervention strategies targeting high-risk groups and high-risk behaviours.	DPEM will oppose liquor permit and licence applications where Tasmania Police considers the level of harm to the community as potentially significant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liquor permit and licence applicants</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Continuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Treasury - Liquor and Gaming Branch</li> </ul>
	National Drug and Law Enforcement Research Fund (NDLERF) research: family violence and alcohol.  Study to better understand the relationship between alcohol and family violence incidents, and in determining policy directions to inform offender programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offenders and victims of family violence</li> </ul>	18 months duration (ending in 2015)	Continuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completion of research report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Justice</li> <li>Deakin University</li> </ul>

Key action area (of the Framework)	Intended actions	Key target for activity during the period	Timeframe (time limited or ongoing)	New / Continuation of existing	How will achievements be measured	Partners (who else is involved)
	<p>NDLERF research: <i>Drug and Alcohol intoxication and Subsequent Harm in night-time Entertainment Districts (DASHED)</i>.</p> <p>Researching the Hobart and Canberra entertainment precincts to examine the relationship between alcohol consumption, intoxication, substance use, crime and other risky behaviours, in and around licenced premises.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tasmanian community</li> <li>Patrons at licenced establishments</li> </ul>	17 months duration (ending in 2016)	New	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completion of research report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ambulance Tasmania</li> <li>Department of Health and Human Services</li> <li>Department of Treasury - Liquor and Gaming Branch</li> <li>University of Tasmania</li> <li>Deakin University</li> <li>Australian Institute of Criminology</li> </ul>
c. Ensuring there are strategies and measures to prevent and reduce alcohol-related injuries including road injuries; and workplace injuries.	<p><u>Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy</u> Promotes the responsible use of alcohol, prescription medication and illicit drugs by Tasmania Police officers. The policy provides for random, targeted and incident-related testing for alcohol and drugs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tasmania Police officers</li> </ul>	Policy implemented in April 2014. Ongoing	New	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>External testing provider</li> </ul>
d. Supporting and implementing specific projects such as environmental improvement strategies, e.g. improved lighting, visibility and thoroughfare; and the promotion of practical strategies to avoid drink-driving, e.g. increased transportation, planning ahead, designated driver.	<p><u>Local Government and Community Partnerships</u> Working in partnership with local councils to address a range of environmental, transport and other issues to increase community safety in relation to alcohol issues. Support for the application of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tasmanian community</li> <li>Local Government Councils</li> <li>Community groups</li> <li>Public transport services</li> <li>Public safety</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Continuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tasmanian community</li> <li>Local Government Councils</li> <li>Local Government Association of Tasmania</li> <li>Community groups</li> <li>Public transport services</li> </ul>