



Alcohol and the law

Alcohol is the most commonly used legal drug in Australia and the drug that causes the most harm to young people. For under 18's, no alcohol is the safest choice.

Talk with your children about the laws about alcohol.

- It is illegal for young people under 18 years of age to buy alcohol.
- It is illegal for anyone, including young people under 18 years of age, to drink alcohol in a public place such as on the street, park or beach, or on licensed premises.
- It is illegal for L or P plate drivers or riders to have a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of more than zero.
- Fully licensed drivers must not drive or ride a vehicle if their BAC is over 0.05.
- Police can issue on the spot fines to young people who break the laws. Police also have the powers to seize any alcohol, open or unopened, in certain situations.



Can parents serve alcohol to their children at home?

It is not an offence to serve alcohol to your children in your own home. However, research shows that no alcohol is the safest choice for children and young people under 18 years of age.

Can a young person under 18 years of age be served alcohol in a private home?

It is against the law to supply or serve alcohol to anyone under 18 without the permission of their parents.

Does a parent or party host have a duty of care for their guests?

Yes. You can be liable for what happens during and after the party including the guests getting home safely. To avoid possible civil legal action being taken against you, make sure that you predict things that might go wrong and take reasonable care to prevent them from occurring.

For more information on alcohol visit the Alcohol Think Again website at www.alcoholthinkagain.com.au



If you are about to have a party for a group of teenagers you might like to read the brochure *Hosting a party for teenagers – facts to consider* <http://www.alcoholthinkagain.com.au/Portals/1/Media/Pdf/Hosting-A-Party-Final.pdf>

Parents are the most common supplier of alcohol to their teenagers. The family home and friend's homes are the most common places for drinking to take place.

