

BOTTLE STORE UNDERCOVER STINGS HAVE A ROLE IN REDUCING UNDERAGE DRINKING BUT REAL ISSUE IS PARENTS AND SIBLINGS

The Distilled Spirits Industry Council of Australia (DSICA) has supported a suggestion for New South Wales liquor licensing authorities to have the ability to mount covert underage purchase operations in bottle stores, but all the research points to the legally purchased alcohol being supplied by parents, siblings and older friends as the real issue that needs to be addressed.

The suggestion for the underage purchase operations comes from the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) in its submission to a NSW Parliament committee looking at alcohol secondary supply laws.

“The real issue is alcohol supplied by parents and siblings, particularly for the younger ages, because that is how the great majority of the alcohol reaches underage drinkers. The closer to 18 the drinkers get, the more alcohol is supplied by older, legal aged friends” said DSICA spokesman Stephen Riden.

“Parental supply is a symbol of those parents’ support for their underage children drinking, and that is the underlying attitude we need to change. That attitude is then picked up by older siblings, who also can supply alcohol.

“The liquor stores are doing what they can to keep alcohol out of the hands of underage drinkers with their ‘ID25’ program and their ‘Don’t Buy It For Them’ program, but success really depends on changing parents’ beliefs and attitudes,” he concluded.

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