



NSW Government Right to Tackle Violence but Singling Out Spirits not the Answer

The Distilled Spirits Industry Council of Australia (DSICA) has supported the intent of today's announcement by the NSW Government for new restrictions to reduce violence around Kings Cross, but disagrees that distilled spirits are a problem warranting specific drink bans.

DSICA spokesman Stephen Riden said that "the NSW Government should be supported in its efforts to stop violence in Kings Cross but its emphasis on banning shots, doubles and higher strength pre-mixed drinks after midnight begs the question: what about beer and wine? Alcohol is alcohol, irrespective of how it is made."

"The crackdown is in response to the sad and senseless death of Tom Kelly, which happened well before midnight and which has never been linked to alcohol issues. Would any of these measures have prevented such a tragedy?"

"None of the trial measures announced by the Government stop people abusing alcohol well before midnight. Is it only the shots, doubles and pre-mixed drinks served in bars after midnight that are really the issue?"

"What about illicit drugs, which are an issue that seems to be forgotten in the Kings Cross debate?"

"The abuse of alcohol by some people is a problem that the spirits industry takes very seriously and we will always seek to work with Governments to find solutions."

"In that vein, the Government should be congratulated for announcing a renewed effort to reduce the violence and behaviour that blights Kings Cross."

ENDS#

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