



Galaxy Poll finds 8 out of 10 Australians think RTD tax has failed the test

100-day countdown to scrap the tax begins

An overwhelming majority of Australians believe that the Federal Government's 70 per cent tax hike on Ready-To-Drink (RTD) alcohol products has failed to reduce binge drinking among young people and should be scrapped.

A new national survey, conducted by Galaxy Research, found 78 per cent of respondents believe that nine months after its contentious introduction the RTD tax trial has been ineffective in solving binge drinking among young people, with almost half of those polled rating the tax hike as 'very ineffective'.

The survey also revealed 77 per cent of respondents believe the Australian Senate should vote down the RTD tax hike – even after respondents were told how much revenue the tax would generate for the Government during the Global Financial Crisis.

Only 7 per cent of Australians 'strongly disagree' with abandoning the tax.

"Australians have been forced to endure the unintended consequences of this poorly conceived tax grab over the past nine months. They know it has failed and they want it scrapped," said Mr Stephen Riden, Information and Research Manager for DSICA.

"Australians want a real solution to problem drinking, not a tax slug that effectively encourages the purchase of cheaper and often stronger forms of alcohol," he said.

These results come as DSICA highlights the 100-day countdown to the deadline (27 April 2009) for enabling legislation to be passed by the Senate. The Australian Parliament has to date been denied the opportunity to debate and vote on supporting legislation for the tax increase.

"The Senate is the last place where this flawed tax can be put to rest. Time is fast running out to ensure Australia is not left with a legacy of bad policy and missed opportunities."

The Galaxy Research survey was carried out between 16-18 January 2009. The statistically significant sample of 1,058 respondents aged 18 years or over was weighted to reflect the latest ABS population statistics.

The survey was commissioned by DSICA, and the complete results are available on request.

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