Media Release **29 August 2008**

ALCOHOL TAX REFUND NOT WANTED BY INDUSTRY: DSICA

The Distilled Spirits Industry Council of Australia (DSICA) does not want – nor has it ever expected – any money collected by the Federal Government's 70 per cent tax hike on ready-to-drink (RTD) alcohol products to be returned to the industry.

"Our members do not seek to profit from a situation in which the Government is forced to return tax revenues collected without Senate approval," said Stephen Riden, Information and Research Manager for DSICA.

"If and when enabling legislation is rejected by the Senate, all revenue gained from this poorly conceived tax trial should be returned to the community for use in alcohol-related harm minimisation programs," he said.

"The $200 million collected to date would make a huge impact if directed towards community-based education and intervention programs.

"It is up to the Parliament to determine exactly how this money should be used to deliver a comprehensive solution to alcohol abuse in our community."

DSICA seeks to work productively with the Government, Opposition, Greens and Independent Senators, as well as health and community-based organisations, to find a lasting solution to problem drinking.

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