



## **CONTINUED DECLINE IN UNDERAGE DRINKING VERY WELCOME NEWS**

The Distilled Spirits Industry Council of Australia (DSICA) welcomed today's release of survey data by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare showing the continued decline in underage drinking, and increased moderation in drinking across the entire drinking population.

National Drug Strategy surveys in 2004, 2007 and 2010 have demonstrated a steady downwards trend in the percentage of Australia's 14-19 year olds who are consuming alcohol.

DSICA Executive Director, Gordon Broderick, said that seeing the decade-long downward trend for underage drinking continue was very good news, however there was still too much risky drinking by underage people.

"Overall, the trend for underage drinking is very good, with fewer teenagers in 2010 starting drinking at all. This trend was first recorded in the 2004 and 2007 surveys, well before the Ready-To-Drink (alcopops) tax-hike in early 2008," he said.

"DrinkWise Australia should be given credit for this positive change because the data also shows a substantial drop in parents buying alcohol for their teenagers, which is the goal of the "Alcohol and kids don't mix" DrinkWise campaign.

"Equally welcome is that the percentages of underage drinkers – both male and female – drinking at short-term risky or high-risk levels have also declined across the same nine-year period," Mr Broderick said.

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