

# Injury Control Council of Western Australia (Inc)

## *Safer Bars WA* Overview



# ICCWA

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- ❖ Peak non-government not-for profit organisation involved in injury prevention and community safety promotion in WA



# Program Areas

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- ❖ Alcohol
- ❖ Suicide Prevention
- ❖ Seniors Falls Prevention
- ❖ Injury Prevention Professional Development
- ❖ Mall Walking Groups
- ❖ Safe Communities
- ❖ Community Violence
- ❖ Road Safety

# What does alcohol have to do with injury?

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- On average, West Australians aged 15 years and above consume 12.66 litres per capita
- Approximately 5,900 people are hospitalised every year due to alcohol caused injury.
- There are approximately 147 deaths every year in Western Australia as a result of alcohol-caused injury.
- Alcohol is a contributing factor in approximately 20% of all adult drownings every year.
- A significantly larger number of males (117) compared to females (30) die as a result of alcohol-caused injury each year in Western Australia.

# Why *Safer Bars WA*

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- Alcohol misuse is one of the main factors influencing perceptions of community safety
- Between 2005-06 and 2009-10, the number of alcohol-related incidents in and around licensed premises recorded by WA Police increased 22 per cent
- Over 30% of all assaults occur in or around licensed premises in WA

Number of alcohol-related incidents in metropolitan areas for 2009-10			Number of alcohol-related incidents in regional areas for 2009-10		
Incident Locality		Total	Incident Locality		Total
1	Northbridge	298	1	Kalgoorlie	148
2	Perth Central Business District	187	2	Geraldton	95
3	Fremantle	145	3	Broome	94
4	Burswood	114	4	Bunbury	59
5	Mandurah	70	5	Meekatharra	59
6	Subiaco	70	6	Busselton/Dunsborough	55
7	Leederville	53	7	Fitzroy Crossing	51
8	Cottesloe	42	8	Halls Creek	51
9	Claremont	41	9	Port Hedland	43
10	Rockingham	41	=10	Karratha	38
			=10	Esperance	38

**Figure 1: The top 10 ranked metropolitan and regional localities for alcohol-related incidents in 2009-10**

*In 2009-10, four metropolitan and one regional locality recorded over 100 alcohol-related incidents requiring police attention. Some of these areas have higher concentrations of licensed premises than others.*

Source: WA Police, OAG

# Liability Issues

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- Increase in legal liability for venues – staff and owners alike
- Security and other staff of licensed premises were responsible for 12% of assaults (NSW report)
- Most victims were patrons (62%) followed by security guards and other staff (22%)

# Potential for damages claims

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# Staff and owners can be held liable

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The window at the Ocean Beach Hotel where the man fell to his death. *Photo: Paul Entwistle.*

# What is *Safer Bars* ?

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- Based on a program from Toronto, Canada with over 30 venues
- Showed a 20% decrease in aggression
- Even small decreases in aggression result in lower injury risks for patrons and staff
- Less problems generally

# Objectives

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- To increase bar staff's ability to work as a team to reduce the risk of customers becoming aggressive, violent or injured
- To reduce the rate of alcohol related incidence of violence, injury and assaults in and around licensed venues
- Overseeing programs for licensees to further develop their harm prevention and harm reduction strategies

# The process

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- Observational audits of venues – before and after the training
- Site meetings with Managers
- On-site training
- Feedback to venues to develop Action Plans

# The training.

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- On site training sessions – 2 x 1.5 hrs
- Increases staff and customer safety
- Increases staff observation and communication skills
- Enables staff to share their experiences
- Strengthens the team - make staff aware of what they are doing right
- Re-examines staff attitudes about bar fights, acceptable patron behaviour and staff response

# What's covered

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- Legal issues
- Understanding patron aggression
- Responding to problem situations
- Assessing situations
  - developing action plans
  - basic principles for dealing with extreme situations
- Personal triggers
- Communication

# *Safer Bars* WA pilot

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Conducted with 7 venues in Town of Vincent (Leederville, Mt Hawthorn, Highgate) in 2010 supported by:

- Drug and Alcohol Office (DAO)
- Department of Racing Gaming and Liquor
- WA Police
- Australian Hotels Assoc of WA
- Night Venues Assoc of WA

# Preliminary findings:

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- Staff felt better able to recognise and deal with situations
- Staff gained a better understanding of others' roles
- Staff recognised that everyone has a role to play in diffusing situations
- Owners and staff felt the training was useful and would recommend it to others

# *Safer Bars WA*

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Conclusions  
&  
Questions



# Contact Details

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