



Safer nights out in popular entertainment precincts

Outcomes of the Hassle Free Nights online forum

As part of the *Hassle Free Nights* action plan, the Government hosted an online forum to discuss uncontrolled alcohol-fuelled gatherings. The forum was open from 3 May 2010 until 24 May 2010.

Contributors to the forum recognised that there was no one clear solution to the problems encountered through these types of gatherings. They offered a mixture of ideas and comments about various issues including:

- The difficulties dealing with a culture of binge drinking,
- Young people taking responsibility for their own behaviour,
- Young people respecting themselves and other people,
- Parents setting standards for their children,
- Registering parties with the NSW Police,
- More police and council officers being available to deal with complaints,
- Penalties for wrongdoers, and
- Raising the legal drinking age to 21.

To address some of these issues, the NSW Government offers a number of useful online tools and information to help young people and other party organisers. In particular NSW Health hosts the website www.whatareyoudoingtoyourself.com. This website provides facts about alcohol, binge drinking, and tips for young people to look after themselves. The NSW Police Force has also developed a youth initiative www.mynite.com.au where party organisers can pick up practical tips for planning and registering their parties.