

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF CRIMINOLOGY

Question No. 334

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

Regarding the report for the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy, are there any completed or interim reports? If yes, please provide? If not, when will they be available?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

This report was released on 12 November 2004 by the Minister for Justice and Customs the Hon. Senator Chris Ellison. A copy is available at:

<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/reports/2004-11-drinkspiking.html>

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 2.1

Question No. 335

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

- a) Have any recommendations been made by the report for the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy?
- b) If yes, what were they, how have they been implemented and have they been successful? If not, why not?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- a) Yes.
- b) The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) report, *National Project on Drink Spiking: Investigating the Nature and Extent of Drink Spiking in Australia*, was the first stage of the National Drink Spiking Project. The Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS) accepted the report on 12 November 2004.

The Report recommends that:

- police recording procedures be improved and standardised
- all incidents be reported to police, even when only suspected
- hospitals and the forensic sector improve their data collection and recording of people who present with suspected drink spiking
- communicating a public message that drink spiking is not just a 'bit of fun' and is potentially dangerous and illegal
- each jurisdiction review its criminal law provisions in terms of their applicability to drink spiking
- to improve drink spiking prosecution rates, a coordinated approach is required involving victims, witnesses, police, hospitals, forensic labs and the Director of Public Prosecutions, and
- prevention strategies must be targeted appropriately, and awareness campaigns must be piloted before wide distribution.

At the November meeting, the MCDS asked the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs (IGCD) to examine the recommendations of the AIC report and determine what (if any) action should be taken. The process for examining the recommendations will be determined at the next IGCD meeting in February 2005.

On 18 December 2004, the Australian Government Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator Ellison, wrote to Attorneys-General requesting that drink spiking be added to the agenda for the next meeting of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General to enable the development of uniform drink spiking offences. This request arises from the recommendation that each jurisdiction review its criminal law provisions for drink spiking incidents.

Stage 2 of the National Drink Spiking Project will commence early in 2005 and will focus on developing awareness raising packages for police, accident and emergency departments, sexual assault counsellors and liquor industry staff.

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Question No. 356

Senator Ludwig asked the following question on 2 December 2004:

What are the aggregate costs of the AIC library's upkeep?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The total operating expenses for output 1.2 for the financial year 03/04 was \$926,817.