

The Honourable Bob Debus MP

Member for Macquarie

Dear Sir

The damage caused by the misuse of alcohol is well documented, and undeniable. This damage can be physical, either directly to the body eg liver damage; as the result of an accident, motor vehicle or personal; as a result of violence... The damage can be psychological. It can be financial.

The Sydney Morning Herald of Sept. 24, 2007, reported on a study conducted by Professor Shane Darke, of the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre. The report stated,

"Almost two-thirds of homicide victims have alcohol or drugs in their bodies when they are killed and 60 per cent of those who die in a fight are intoxicated."

Professor Darke was quoted as saying,

"These figures are stratospheric when compared to the rest of the population."

One measure taken to combat the damage done by smoking was to ban the advertising of tobacco. Sir, may I urge you to do all you can to legislate for a similar ban on the advertising of alcohol? Your support of Senator Fielding's Alcohol Toll Reduction Bill 2007, which has been referred to the Senate Standing Committee, would be a most positive action. This would be a large step towards saving/improving the lives of many fellow Australians - men, women and children.

Yours sincerely

Phillip Wilding

6/3/08