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Media Release

What Teen Drinking Law?

Parents can be fined or jailed for providing alcohol to Under 18's

With the party season fast approaching, alcohol is on the minds of many young people and their parents. Alcohol creates more problems than any other drug in Australia. While 60% of young people under 16 do not drink, and for a small group alcohol plays a large role in their lives.

Many parents remain unaware of the Teen Drinking Law enacted in November 2009, regulating the supply of alcohol to young people under 18. The Drug Education Network (DEN) in collaboration with Tasmania Police have developed a range of resources to inform and educate parents about their rights and responsibilities when it comes to young people and alcohol.

The **Party Rules Booklet: A Guide for Parents and Young People, A Facilitator's Manual** and an animation prepared by Tasmania Police **Sale and Supply of Alcohol to Youth** will be launched to the Tasmanian community on 4 December in Launceston and 5 December in Hobart.

The resources have been welcomed by parents and young people. One parent commented: "We made it clear to our kids anyone turning up drunk or high wouldn't be allowed in. Knowing we'd be responsible if anything happened, we figured it wasn't worth the risk."

Parents need to be confident in their responsibilities in seeking permission from parents/guardians to supply alcohol to under 18 year old. As the responsible adult, the legislation requires them to NOT be intoxicated themselves, and provide a safer environment through the supply of water and food when young people are using alcohol.

The Drug Education Network (DEN) is a non-government organisation funded to deliver a range of health promotion, prevention and early intervention programs to reduce the harm associated with alcohol, tobacco and other drug use across Tasmania.

Please see the Launch Invitation for more information regarding the launches.

If you would like more information please contact Ronnie Voigt, State Manager, Drug Education Network, 6211 2350
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