



FAMILY FIRST



Steve Fielding **Family First** Senator for Victoria

MEDIA RELEASE

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ALCOHOL-FUELLED VIOLENCE COSTS \$190 MILLION EVERY YEAR

Research released today reveals alcohol is a major factor in violence in the Australian community and exposes the urgent need for the government to take action to curb binge drinking.

"Confirmation that alcohol is a major factor in violence across Australia shows the government must take action to cut problem drinking," Family First leader Steve Fielding said today.

"The National Alliance Against Alcohol Related Violence released polling data today demonstrating one in five people, that is three million people, have been affected by alcohol-related violence, or know someone who has been affected by alcohol-related violence.

"That's three million ordinary Australians, someone's son or daughter, whose lives have been wrecked or severely traumatised by alcohol-related violence.

"A recent report estimates that alcohol-related violence costs the community \$187.5 million a year. *The costs of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drug abuse to Australian society in 2004/05* was released by the Health Minister last week.

"Family First is taking action to help curb problem drinking and promote a culture of responsible drinking by introducing laws to mandate health information on alcohol packaging and to cut back on alcohol advertising."

The Senate Community Affairs Committee is inquiring into Family First's *Alcohol Toll Reduction Bill 2007* and has received evidence that alcohol contributes to 50% of domestic violence, 80% of assaults at night and is a significant factor in child abuse.

The Committee is taking evidence on a range of other measures that may also help cut the binge drinking problem, including the taxing of alcohol and restricting the number of alcohol outlets.

Family First's *Alcohol Toll Reduction Bill* requires health information labels on all alcohol products. It would ensure all alcohol advertising is pre-approved by a government body, that television alcohol advertising runs after 9pm and ads should not link drinking to personal, business, social, sporting, sexual or other success.

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