



**CONFERENCE OF LEADERS OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES  
IN NEW SOUTH WALES  
CLRI (NSW)**

ABN: 52 476 362 010  
Member of Catholic Church Religious Group

Senator Steve Fielding  
The Senate  
Parliament House  
Canberra  
ACT 2600

Dear Senator Fielding,

I write on behalf of the NSW Justice Committee of the Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes CLRI(NSW). CLRI(NSW) represents approximately 3,500 members and their associates in NSW. The Justice Committee is responsible for research, resourcing, reflection, advocacy and action in the areas of justice, peace, the environment, education and human rights.

For the past 200 years Catholic religious in Australia have been involved in the education and support of children and young people. Along the way we have dealt with a plethora of social issues which have impacted on young people – poverty, abuse, addiction, homelessness, dysfunctional families and many other issues. When working with young people it does not take long to see the consequences of alcohol on young people – broken families, excessive risk taking, damage to health and death on the roads.

The members of CLRI(NSW) supported your efforts to have additional money and government efforts committed to curbing binge drinking but we are deeply distressed by your inability to negotiate with the government and to pass the legislation. Now we are back to square one with sugar laden alcopops returned to the market at prices accessible to all. There will be more under-age drinkers back on the streets and the revenue from the taxes no longer available to fund programmes dealing with binge drinking.

Failing to support this measure is not putting families first and young people will suffer.

Representatives of CLRI(NSW) are only too happy to meet with you and discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,

*Libby Rogerson*

Libby Rogerson ibvm  
for CLRI(NSW)  
19 March 2009

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