

# Statement of Commitment for Reducing Alcohol Harm

## Our Commitment

Knox City Council is committed to taking steps that improve the health and wellbeing of our community by reducing the harm caused by alcohol misuse.

Through this commitment we are delivering on a key health priority from the Council Plan which incorporates the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan.

## Why is this important?

Alcohol can cause serious health and social problems for individuals and communities. The harms caused by alcohol misuse include:

- Physical and mental health problems for individuals and families
- A major contributor and risk factor for family violence

- Increased anti-social behaviour and physical injury
- Decreased feelings of safety.

Reducing the harms caused by alcohol misuse are long-term, complex and involves all levels of government and communities. Council can have a positive impact.

## Council will take steps in the areas where we have most impact

These include:

- Managing alcohol on Council land, at recreation reserves, in sporting and community facilities.
- Promoting a responsible drinking culture within Council and community.
- Designing public places to be family friendly and manage alcohol consumption in areas where this is a problem.
- Working together with Victoria Police, local community organisations and businesses to develop solutions, share resources and advocate for change in state government policies.
- Strengthening Council assessments of liquor licensing applications which will include assessing the impact on community.
- Providing education about responsible alcohol consumption, the risks associated with misuse, and information on local support services.
- Taking leadership by prioritising alcohol harm reduction in our health and wellbeing strategies, policies, and programs.
- Researching and monitoring data on alcohol harm to guide Council decisions and development of effective harm reduction programs.

## Help is available

Alcohol harm can affect anyone in our community, it doesn't matter what their gender, age, income or culture is. If you require assistance, please contact:

EACH Drug and Alcohol Counselling Service call 1300 00 3224.

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