



Enhancing the News

March 2008

Teenage Alcohol Abuse

Teenage binge drinking has become a serious social issue following the results of an Australian National Council on Drugs report that found the consumption of alcohol at harmful levels among young people is increasing.

The report states that in any given week, one in ten 15 year olds binge drink, one in five 16 and 17 year olds binge drink and 451,000 children live in homes where one adult binges on alcohol.

Even more alarming is the finding that “approximately 13 per cent of young drinkers report drink-driving and 16 per cent report going to work or school under the influence of alcohol.”

As alcohol is so widely used and socially accepted in our society there is concern the harmful effects of the drug are mistakenly being overlooked. Inform students of the dangers of alcohol abuse and encourage responsible drinking with the free feature article, [Alcohol: A killer in our midst](#), which presents a detailed report on alcohol use and “alcoholism”.

For primary students, [Behind the News](#) explains how drinking damages lives and [Behind the News: Making Decisions](#) looks at how decisions you make affect your well-being, including how alcohol can do long term damage to your body.

Suitable for higher education levels, [Quantum: What’s Your Poison? – Alcohol, Ep 4 of 5](#) examines the origins, effects and social history of alcohol. [Body Hits: On The Lash – Series 1, Ep 1 of 6](#) reveals the physical and psychological effects alcohol has on the human body and explains why it is that women get drunk more easily than men.

[Catalyst](#) contains a story on teenage alcohol use, and [Insight: Under the Influence](#) discusses Australia’s binge drinking culture. [Difference of Opinion: Alcohol – Our Favourite Drug](#) asks if Australia has a national drinking problem and debates the pleasure and pain of alcohol.

[Four Corners: Battling the Booze](#) conveys the enormity of the challenge facing those who have fallen into alcohol's trap. While [60 Minutes](#) features the story, The Sobering Truth, that reveals the

devastating effects alcohol and binge drinking can have on women, [For Corners: For the Children's Sake](#) asks how do we deal with parents who are drug addicts or alcoholics?

