



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

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PM's ALCOHOL STRATEGY TO HELP NEWCASTLE

Sharon Grierson today committed to doing all she can to ensure that the Prime Minister's \$53 million national package to combat binge drinking brings real benefits for Newcastle.

Ms Grierson spoke on this issue in Federal Parliament today, following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday and the Liquor Administration Board's deliberations on Newcastle closing times this week.

"With the Prime Minister's announcement it's a good time to look closely at the causes of alcohol abuse and binge drinking," Ms Grierson said.

"Young people often raise with me the pressures of juggling work and study, boredom and lack of entertainment, exposure to family and community patterns of excessive drinking, and a lack of understanding of the dangers of drinking."

"It's time we looked at why so many young people drink dangerously - our young people are too important to our future to be left unassisted during some of the most challenging years of their lives."

"The Prime Minister's package - which includes community partnerships, education, advertising and early intervention - will help to address some of those pressures young people face."

"Today I commit to Newcastle that I will do all I can to ensure this \$53 million investment brings real benefits for our community."

The Prime Minister announced on Monday a \$53 million national strategy, including:

- \$14.4 million to invest in community level initiatives to confront the culture of binge drinking, particularly in sporting organisations;
- \$19.1 million to intervene earlier to assist young people and ensure that they assume personal responsibility for their binge drinking; and
- \$20 million to fund advertising that confronts young people with the costs and consequences of binge drinking.

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