



# AUSTRALIAN HOTELS ASSOCIATION

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### ZERO TOLERANCE TO SCHOOLIES UNDERAGE DRINKING

The hotel industry has a direct warning for young people who are taking part in schoolies celebrations across Australia and are considering purchasing alcohol.

“Any schoolies who are not 18 years old – the legal age to buy and be served alcohol – can expect to be told to turn around and leave a hotel or bottleshop,” said the AHA’s National Chief Executive Officer, Bill Healey.

“It is against the law for people aged under 18 to purchase alcohol and hotels are maintaining a strong commitment to enforcing this.”

The AHA expects those schoolies who are 18 or older who visit licensed venues to consume alcohol responsibly.

“Just because a young school-leaver is legally old enough to drink, it does not mean he or she should go overboard and risk hurting themselves or those around them,” Mr Healey said.

“Our industry’s message to schoolies is ‘by all means celebrate this key milestone in your life and have a good time, however this shouldn’t require you to drink to get drunk and engage in anti-social behaviour’.”

Mr Healey also called on parents to reinforce these messages and not place their kids at risk by circumventing the law and purchasing alcohol for their children.

**For further information:**

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*The Australian Hotels Association (AHA) is the pre-eminent tourism and hospitality industry organisation in Australia. It has around 5000 members operating general and accommodation hotels. It has a national office and branches in each State and Territory. It also has a discrete branch to represent the interests of its accommodation members that covers four and five-star properties.*