



Private Parties and Rostrevor College

Rostrevor College does not support nor encourage the provision or facilitation of any alcohol to students under the age of 18.

We do not recommend that parents organise events where such provision of alcohol to minors is intended, supported or likely. This includes but is not limited to events such as 'after-parties' following school formal or sporting events.

The laws of South Australia, including liquor licensing provisions, are designed in part to prevent, minimise or delay the consumption of alcohol by minors to protect their health and welfare. Rostrevor College supports these aims. Please be aware that as of 18 December 2017 new laws now impose stronger penalties for people who illegally supply alcohol to anyone under 18. Please refer to the flyer and Q & A document published by the Attorney General's Department;

[Stop the supply of alcohol to minors flyer](#)
[Stop the supply of alcohol to minors Q & A](#)

The decision of parents to allow their sons to attend any event where minors are provided with alcohol is made by parents alone. As a College, we encourage parents to consider such decisions carefully and be fully informed about the legal, health and well-being risks associated with their sons' attendance at such events.

Regarding the broader issues of alcohol, parties and minors, the decision of parents to allow their sons to attend any social events with or without alcohol is one for them to make as responsible parents according to their values and relationships with their sons.

Adults have a range of safeguards to exercise, including saying 'No', providing education and information about risks and safe behaviour, and having authentic 'What should you do if this happens?' discussions with their sons. Saying 'No' may sometimes make us unpopular with adolescents but it may make us responsible parents, and we will not be on our own.

Scientific and research evidence indicates that the earlier young people drink alcohol, the greater the actual and potential harm and risk to them. Similarly, brain development is incomplete in most boys until their mid-twenties and this fact limits their higher order decision-making abilities in relation to risk-taking.

Conversely, there is no compelling evidence that Under 18's can be 'taught to drink' by attending large-scale parties organised by well-intentioned groups of parents at which liquor is provided free, sold or brought in by the children themselves. Furthermore, according to the SA Police, it is possible that organisers of events facilitating alcohol to minors are in breach of current licensing laws and definitely in breach of the proposed 'Third Party Supply' legislation currently before the South Australian Parliament.

The following sources may be of interest to our community.

<http://darta.net.au/factsheets/>
<http://drinkwise.org.au/>

The College has been consistent in its approach to this broader issue and has provided significant guidance to our community via targeted seminars to Senior Years students and staff and voluntary seminars for our parent community.

Please contact me, or Mr Ranaldo, or Mr Pezos, if you wish further clarification of our position regarding students attending private events where alcohol is provided or made available to minors.

Shana Bennett
Principal