



STATEMENT ON ALCOHOL MISUSE

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- 1.1 This document is a statement of the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine and relates to the effects on health of alcohol use in society.
- 1.2 The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine recognises that:
 - 1.2.1 Alcohol related problems are a major cause of health problems and of presentations to the emergency department.
 - 1.2.2 Alcohol misuse is a significant factor in motor vehicle accidents, falls, drowning, burns, suicide, occupational injuries, interpersonal violence, domestic violence and child abuse.

2. POLICY

- 2.1 The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine supports measures aimed at reducing societal levels of alcohol consumption including, but not limited to:
 - 2.1.1 Restriction of advertising.
 - 2.1.2 Advertising campaigns and public education about the adverse effects of alcohol use.
 - 2.1.3 Government funding for alcohol cessation programs.
 - 2.1.4 Specific intervention programs for at-risk populations.
 - 2.1.5 Prosecution of those found to be driving above the statutory limit.
 - 2.1.6 Drink-driving reduction strategies and Occupational Health and Safety legislation.

3. PROCEDURE AND ACTIONS

- 3.1 Emergency departments are well placed to identify alcohol related problems in presenting patients.
- 3.2 Mechanisms should exist to refer at-risk patients to an appropriate community resource for education/intervention.