

Leaders for Geelong Program

Creating a Vibrant and Safe Geelong Night Life

This project was inspired by the 'Law and Order' component of the Leaders for Geelong program, stimulating the project team's desire for all members of the community to be able to enjoy Geelong's night life and move safely around our town. Our goal is to achieve an after dark central Geelong culture of interactivity, vibrancy and appeal for all members of the community.

The project team is made up of Leaders for Geelong 2007-09 Program participants committed to contributing to the local community.

Tineke Barry, *Geelong Performing Arts Centre*

Mark Davison, *Matchworks*

Ralph Menchise, *St Laurence Community Services Inc*

Duncan Morris, *Salvation Army*

Julie Pavletich, *Department of Education & Early Childhood Development*

Glen Smith, *Powercor & CitiPower*

Steve Sodomaco, *City of Greater Geelong*

Louisa White, *Golden Plains Shire*

This project investigates successful strategies and interventions that comparable cities in Australia and around the world have implemented. We look at what is happening in Geelong right now; night life safety concerns; the role of key stakeholders; community perceptions and existing programs and campaigns.

As a result of the project group's research we have a number of recommendations for action and suggestions about how these actions can be implemented.

Read more about the research findings and recommendations at

www.committeeforgeelong.com.au/news/_news.asp?ID=13

Vibrant and Safe Geelong Night Life Project

Supported by
the Victorian
Government



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For more information about this Project, including research findings and recommendations, please visit:

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Thank you

We would like to thank all those who gave generously of their time to participate in this project.

A Vibrant and Safe Geelong Night Life

Project Group Recommendations Summary



Transport and Infrastructure

- Improve taxi services
- Low cost bus services with security
- Dial-a-chauffer service
- Enhanced lighting and seating
- Connect Central Geelong's developing precincts by a series of strips, plazas and malls
- Continue to encourage people to live in Central Geelong utilising affordable first floor accommodation above existing retail space

Education and Awareness

- Commit to a nationwide campaign to address Australia's drinking culture
- Use Geelong as a poster city
- The Geelong Advertiser's 'Just Think' campaign is an excellent example
- Provide an on-line space for young people to register their concerns

Media

- Balanced reporting
- Support for community interest and lobby groups active in alcohol and safety issues
- Media should be represented on the Geelong Safety Committee

Venue Management

- Change opening hours
- Limit liquor served late at night
- ID scanning to be mandatory in all night clubs
- ID scanning system linked between night clubs so that evicted patrons cannot enter another venue
- Police to be linked to the ID scanning system
- Safe design principles to be applied to night clubs as part of liquor accords
- Establish 'safe zones' within night clubs

Culture and Vibrancy

- Allow trading from coffee and food carts
- Program roving street entertainment
- Provide a range of interactive public spaces using a mix of public art, water features, small scale outdoor stages and large screens for televising major events
- Link the arts precinct to Little Malop Street between Gheringhap and Moorabool Streets creating a bohemian quarter in Central Geelong

Management and Community Engagement

- Formalise and strengthen the Geelong Safety Committee

Law and Order

- Review liquor accords
- Move away from the voluntary nature of accords and make them enforceable by Liquor Licensing Victoria
- Make it an offence for under 18's to possess and consume alcohol in any situation
- Make it an offence to provide or purchase alcohol on behalf of under 18's in any situation
- Use on the spot fines and infringement notices to free up police time to enable more on-street policing
- Introduce breath testing at night clubs
- Sobering units to work alongside police to safely remove intoxicated people
- Introduce a process of accreditation for venue staff with a strong emphasis on conflict resolution, communication skills and emotional intelligence
- Ensure that Central Geelong is adequately secured by CCTV during high risk hours
- Promote 'Nightlife Ambassadors' who will liaise with security staff and police
- Beyond a certain hour introduce a 'one drink per one person' policy to reduce speed drinking

