

MEDIA RELEASE

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Drug ARM
Australasia

One in two domestic violence homicides involve alcohol

“The role of alcohol in domestic violence must be addressed.” – Drug ARM Executive Director

To mark the 2017 National Day of Action against Violence and Bullying, Executive Director of national alcohol education and support service Drug ARM is calling for the role of alcohol in domestic violence to be addressed.

“We must consider the role of alcohol in domestic and family violence.” Dr Dennis Young, Executive Director of Drug ARM Australasia, implored.

Alarming data released by the Australian Institute of Criminology reveals that alcohol played a part in almost half of all intimate partner homicides between 2000 and 2006.

“One in two domestic violence homicides involve alcohol. How can a policy to reduce family violence be effective without the inclusion of strategies to reduce drinking?” Dr Young said.

Further highlighting the role that alcohol plays in domestic violence, Dr Young points to research showing that alcohol consumption can intensify domestic bullying behaviour, increase the [risk of physical violence](#) and impact on the [severity of injury](#) sustained through the act of violence.

Additionally of concern to Dr Young are the effects on children exposed to domestic and family violence.

“[Research](#) shows that children who witness alcohol consumption and violence in the home are also at increased risk of abuse and neglect.” Dr Young said.

A recent [report](#) from the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education found that over one million Australian children are affected in some way by the drinking of others.

Dr Young has witnessed this close relationship between alcohol and domestic and family violence over his 40 years in health and policing.

“While there is no silver bullet solution to a complex issue such as domestic and family violence, reducing alcohol consumption needs to be part of a suite of measures to address this insidious and pervasive crime.”

ENDS

People who are struggling with their alcohol use or the alcohol use of a family member can contact Drug ARM on 1300 656 800 (Freecall QLD, NSW, SA) or 07 3620 8800 (National)

About Drug ARM: Drug ARM provides vital care and compassion to support people, families and communities throughout Queensland with a range of programs and services that include education, outreach, prevention and treatment.

Media Contact: Alexandra Davis | Manager, Communications and Relationships, 0404 332 784, alexandrad@healthyoptions.org.au