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# Alcohol policy in the ACT: past, present and future

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**First consignment of liquor following the lifting of prohibition in the Federal Capital Territory.  
Railway truck load of beer cases with a tally clerk, 1928**



Source: National Archives of Australia

# The present ...

## **ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2004-2008: 4 aims**

- 1. Improve the health and social well-being** of individuals, consumers, families and carers, and the community in the ACT;
- 2. Minimise the harm in our community** from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs while recognising the individual needs of all citizens in the ACT;
- 3. Develop evidence-based initiatives** to ensure that issues associated with harmful alcohol, tobacco and other drug use are addressed in an effective way; and
- 4. Implement the Strategy in a manner that respects, protects and promotes human rights.**

## ***Actions identified in the 2004-2008 Strategy***

**68 actions identified under supply reduction, demand reduction and harm reduction**

**Including, specific to alcohol:**

**#5: Review Liquor Licensing legislation and develop strategies for more effective enforcement**

**#32: Establish a sobering-up facility in the ACT**

**#35: Contribute to national programs that address community attitudes about alcohol**

# The present ...

- **Current reviews of legislation**
  - *Liquor Act 1975*
  - *Road Transport (Alcohol and Drug) Act 1977*
  
- **No accurate alcohol consumption data**
  - ‘Levels and trends in per capita consumption [of alcohol] are unknown for New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and the ACT after 1995/6 as these jurisdictions opted to cease collecting the necessary wholesale alcohol sales data after that year’ (Chikritzhs et al. 2003, p. xv)

# The future ...

- Outcomes of the reviews of the two pieces of legislation
- Developing the next *Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy (2009-2013)*
  - What do you want it to say about alcohol?
- ‘**Develop evidence-based initiatives** to ensure that issues associated with harmful alcohol, tobacco and other drug use are addressed in an effective way’ (ACT ATOD Strategy 2004-2008)

# References

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