

HOST RESPONSIBILITY NOTES FOR SPECIAL LICENCE APPLICANTS.

Host Responsibility is the term used to describe ideas to help create a safer drinking environment.

The six key components of Host Responsibility are:-

- Do not serve alcohol to minors (under 18 years old);
- Provide and promote substantial food;
- Provide and promote low and non-alcoholic drinks;
- Arranges safe transport options;
- Prevents intoxication;
- Serves alcohol responsibly, or not at all.

The Sale of Liquor Act 1989 requires that all holders of on licences, club licences, and special licences undertake to be “Responsible Hosts”. This means that it is a legal requirement on your special licence to include the six host responsibility ideas in the running of your event.

Serving Minors

The minimum age at which persons can purchase alcohol is 18 years. A minor (person under 18) cannot purchase alcohol even if accompanied by their parent or guardian, however a parent or guardian may purchase liquor and supply it to a minor. The definition of “guardian” is narrow, and does not include sports coach, extended family, or older sibling.

Providing Food

Providing and substantial food at an event where liquor is served is important, to slow down the absorption of alcohol from the stomach into the blood. Foods such as nachos, wedges, sandwiches, savouries can taste great, and also slow down the onset of intoxication. Promote your food, and have it available whenever liquor is being supplied.

Providing Low and Non-Alcoholic Drinks

Have a range of low and non-alcoholic drinks available. Check the alcohol content of drinks; some will contain more alcohol than you realise. Some RTDs are available from 5% to 12% alcohol. Provide beverages for those who choose not to drink alcohol; there is a huge range available.

Arrange Safe Transport Options

Arrange safe transport home for your guests. Encourage sober drivers, have a courtesy vehicle available, or a phone to call a taxi or friend all help to get your guests home safely. Remember the combination of a few drinks, along with tiredness, can be deadly when driving home after a night out.

Preventing Intoxication

The onset of intoxication is gradual, and the signs vary amongst individuals. Alcohol helps to relax most people, however changes in speech, co-ordination, appearance and behaviour should be heeded, and service slowed down or refused. It’s not easy to “cut-off” a mate, but you are doing them a favour. Police crime and injury statistics show that intoxicated persons are much more likely to be either offenders (usually male), or victims (often women). It is against the law to sell or supply liquor to an intoxicated person on licensed premises.

Serving Alcohol Responsibly

Serving Alcohol responsibly means just that! Avoid drinking games, and serving more than doubles. Serving spirits in containers greater than 500 ml in licensed premises is illegal. Watch out for drink spiking; alcohol is the most common drug in drink -spiking sexual assaults.

