

## BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Just \$7\*  
a week  
for the first  
12 months



Get a pair of  
Sennheiser  
headphones  
plus a digital  
subscription

Conditions apply.

JOIN NOW AT [advertiser.com.au/headphones](http://advertiser.com.au/headphones) or call 1800 301 749

## THE NEWS YOU CHOOSE

The new  
Advertiser  
APP

Yours for less  
than the price of  
a coffee a week.

FIND OUT MORE

Visit [advertiser.com.au/chooseneews](http://advertiser.com.au/chooseneews)



# Boozy after-parties to be 'thing of past'

LAUREN NOVAK  
POLITICAL REPORTER

ALCOHOL-fuelled teenage parties are set to be "a thing of the past" as the State Government moves to crack down on under-age drinking over the festive season.

Laws which come into effect from Monday will give police the power to fine or charge people who supply alcohol to under-age drinkers at organised parties.

Until now, the supply of booze to young people at events such as formal after-parties or New Year's Eve house parties, has been a grey area in South Australian law.

Deputy Premier John Rau told *The Advertiser* that the State Government would use the new laws to "target big parties" where groups of young people are being supplied with booze.

"We are not talking about parents wanting to give their child a sip of champagne on New Year's Eve," Mr Rau said.

"Our concern is... parties where parents often don't know what is going on, and certainly haven't given their permission.

"We are talking about organised and deliberate attempts to supply alcohol to crowds of under-age teenagers.

"The alcohol-fuelled after-party for minors will be a thing of the past."



### THE CHANGES

#### WHAT CAN'T AND CAN BE DONE

Under laws which take effect from Monday, parents or other adults must not give or sell alcohol to a minor at:

- AN event where an entry fee is charged - such as a

school formal after-party.

- A PRIVATE property that isn't a home - such as a warehouse or hired hall.

- A HOUSE party - unless they are the parent or have the permission of the parent.

- Penalties for adults range from \$500 to \$10,000 and

\$210 to \$2500 for under-age drinkers.

- Parents can still share alcohol with their children at home, or in a public place such as a park, as long as they are not intoxicated and it is done under responsible supervision.

Under the new laws it is an offence for someone to give alcohol to under-age drinkers at a home, warehouse or other space hired for an event - unless they are the young person's parent or have the permission of their parent.

Both the adult and the young person must not be intoxicated.

In particular, it is prohibited to give alcohol to a minor at any organised event in a public place where an entry fee or ticket price is charged. Adults who break the law face a \$500 on-the-spot fine or a court-imposed penalty of up to \$10,000.

Any minors caught drinking, or in possession of alcohol, could be fined between \$210 and \$2500.

Police can also fine or charge someone if a complaint has been made, such as by another parent.

SA Association of State School Organisations director David Knuckey, who represents parents of children who attend public schools, said he was "not sure" that all parents "would be clear as to what the rules are" currently.

"Giving police more power to deal with the situation is a good thing," he said.

"We know there's been, for years, this grey area around... can other people give you're child a drink, is there anything you can do about it?"

"Now, with these laws, there is something you can do."

All other states currently impose penalties ranging from \$3000 to \$18,000.

The change in the law was recommended in a review by former judge Tim Anderson, who found "excessive" consumption of alcohol at school formal after-parties, including one event which provided a "sick room" for party-goers to vomit.

## Facing up to social media and teenagers

AS a former Facebook executive she helped to create as "ripping society apart", a leading Adelaide adolescent psychologist says social media can actually play a positive role in young people's lives.

Kirilee Smout says these sites can help teenagers, who would otherwise feel isolated, feel connected.

"It can connect them to others... and give them opportunities to interact with the world and find their voice," the director of Developing Minds and Psychology said.

But ongoing guidance and support from adults is vital in managing risk.

Former Facebook vice president for user growth, father-of-three Chamath Palihapitiya, has banned his three children from using the site, criticising the use of emojis such as hearts and the "thumbs-up" to communicate.

But psychologist and parenting expert Collett Smart believes emojis can be useful.

"I actually believe they can be positive as a vehicle for conveying our message... less than 10 per cent of what we communicate is through actual words, the rest is through tone, body language, facial expression," she said.

Mrs Collett says research shows social media can have a positive influence on the lives of young people, as long as it is used for under two hours a day.

PAGE 21: ISSUES