

Young People and Alcohol



NSW Commission for Children and Young People



- An independent voice for kids
- We listen to kids' views about things that affect them
- We work to create positive change for kids



Participation what we know



- Programs work better if kids are involved in developing and implementing them
- Children and young people understand issues that affect them

NSW Alcohol Summit



- 26-29 August 03, NSW Parliament House
- Bringing together Members of Parliament, experts, liquor industry representatives, and community representatives
- Young people a target group
- Commissioner asked to develop and implement young people's participation strategy

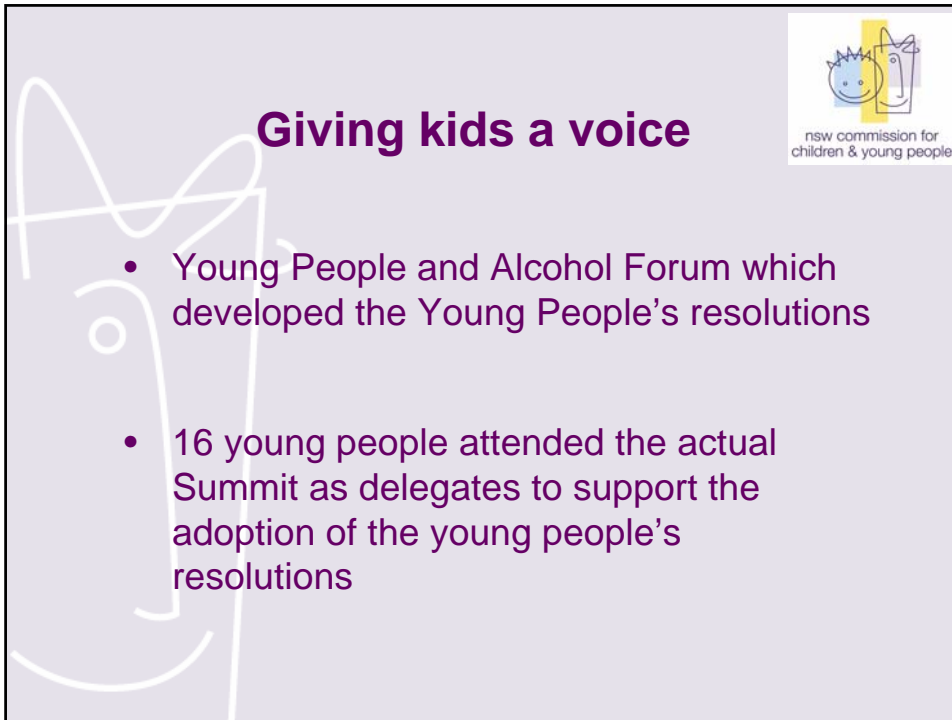


Listening to kids


- More than 500 young people from different ages, cultures, backgrounds and experiences consulted
- Lead-in activities to consult different groups of young people from all around NSW




The slide features a light purple background with a large, faint white line drawing of a face on the left side. The title 'Listening to kids' is centered at the top in a bold, purple font. Below the title are two bullet points, also in purple, describing the consultation process. In the top right corner, there is a logo for the 'nsw commission for children & young people' which consists of two stylized faces, one blue and one yellow, with simple features. Below the logo is the text 'nsw commission for children & young people'.



Giving kids a voice



- Young People and Alcohol Forum which developed the Young People's resolutions
- 16 young people attended the actual Summit as delegates to support the adoption of the young people's resolutions



The Forum



- 60 young people from across NSW
- From different background and experiences
- Developed 67 resolutions to be tabled at the Summit

New South Wales



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The Summit



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Young people were involved in the Summit through

- Tabling resolutions from Forum
- Panel members
- Plenary session discussions and debates
- Preparing the Summit Communiqué
- Participants on working groups
- Media interviews

What Young People Said About Alcohol



"It makes you lose your inhibitions"

"It's a depressant"

"People get violent when they're drunk"

"It makes you feel immortal and sexier"

"It makes you sick"

"It's addictive"

Why young people drink



"If something is going on in your family, alcohol might be seen as a solution to the problem".

"I drink because my mum has problems with alcohol".

"To get drunk"

"Sometimes there's nothing else to do"

"Part of our culture, especially in the country"



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How young people get alcohol



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*"..It's easy to get them (strangers) to buy it for you.
They don't care, it's not their money or their
problem"*

"Buy it. I've been able to but since I was 16"

"My friends mother buys it or her brother"

*"Some places sell you alcohol without checking
how old you are first"*

The impact of alcohol on young people's lives



“I didn't know why my dad was behaving the way he was. I wish I had known what alcohol did to people...”

“It makes you do stupid things that you regret”

“At school parties kids come back having had sex with different people or pregnant”



“We need more underage youth events at nightclubs (alcohol-free). More of those events are needed because kids are bored and need to be off the streets.”

Informing and Engaging the Community



Forum's resolution included:

- Use of celebrities as positive role models
- Earlier age appropriate education in schools
- Target excessive drinking, rather than trying to stop all drinking

Preventing Abuse and Harm



Forum's resolution included:

- Adults as role models
- More shock tactics in ads aimed at kids
- Revision of training strategies for teachers in identifying alcohol abuse
- Providing alternatives to drinking eg under 18's events

Alcohol Dependence, Disease and Treatment



Forum's resolution included:

- Specialist youth staff who know about alcohol in services
- Intensive post discharge support for young people leaving treatment
- Improve young people's knowledge of services through schools



Effective Health Care Service Delivery



Forum's resolution included:

- Holistic health care and dual diagnosis for young people
- Greater connection between youth services, alcohol treatment centres & schools
- Medicare cards
- "One-stop shop" services

Alcohol Related Injury and Trauma



Forum's resolution included:

- Education for young people about how to look after each other when drinking
- More night shuttle services and public transport
- Breathalyses in bars and cars
- More Education on date rape and drink spiking

Family, Health and Well-Being



Forum's resolution included:

- Safe drinking spaces for under 18's
- Involve families in alcohol treatment
- Support for parents to improve knowledge about alcohol related harm
- Implementation of strategies for responsible parental supervision of drinking



Alcohol Related Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour



Forum's resolution included:

- More opportunities for police to have positive interaction with kids eg in schools, especially in rural areas
- More things for kids to do
- Parents should supervise their kids parties

Alcohol and the Justice System



Forum's resolution included:

- More opportunities for diversionary programs, focus on rehabilitation and youth justice conferencing
- Focus on maintaining kids connection to family
- Develop specific post release program for young people

Responsible Supply and Consumption



Forum's resolutions included:

- Re-evaluate voluntary code for alcohol advertising
- Banning of alcohol advertising at sports events
- Compulsory warning on alcohol
- Ban advertising that targets young people



"It's great that the Summit allowed young people to speak. We had the opportunity to speak for 20 minutes in front of a group of highly respected members of our community. The Summit gave us the chance to tell them what the young people of NSW think about alcohol."



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