LGA Guide Tool 8

## Developing a community alcohol profile

### Planning

If you are considering integrating alcohol actions into your council’s strategy or plan, understanding what the local alcohol issues are and what your council is already doing in response is an important first step. This understanding will help to put actions in place that are cost effective and most likely to make a difference to the community and to your council’s bottom line.

### Develop a community alcohol profile

**Purpose:**

* To become aware of the nature and degree of problems associated with alcohol product consumption in the community.
* To identify the factors that support or cause the problems associated with alcohol product consumption to occur.
* To identify which of these factors local government can realistically influence to prevent and reduce local problems associated with alcohol product consumption.
* To inform effective use of limited local government resources.

**Rationale:**

* Given the limited resources of local governments and their broad scope of responsibility, it is beneficial to place resources where they are most needed and most likely to have a positive, long-term impact.
* Having a good understanding of the real issues can help.
* Articulating an effective suite of actions within planning and strategic documents can support how harms from alcohol product consumption are managed and prevented. Sometimes it is not obvious that alcohol product consumption is a factor involved so it is important to properly understand the issue.

### Recommended Approach

The following steps provide some guidance for local governments to assist with this process:

1. Identify local issues of concern to the community.
2. Clarify the nature of the issues, when they occur, how often, who is involved and who is affected.
3. Determine which of the issues directly or indirectly impact on or relate to local government business.
4. Determine which of the issues have alcohol product consumption as a causal or associated factor.
5. Identify the specific alcohol-related factors that contribute to the local problems occurring.
6. Identify how those alcohol-related factors sustain the problems that are occurring.
7. Identify how local government could prevent or minimise the problem (directly or indirectly).

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| **What do you want to know?**  | **What information are you looking for?** | **Where do I find this information?**  |
| Local Government Area | Area (km2)No. of suburbs/townsName of suburbs/towns | Local government |
| Total populationSEIFAAverage incomeAt risk groups | [Australian Bureau of Statistics](http://www.abs.gov.au/)  |
| Alcohol availability  | No. existing licences and variations by licence type. No. existing permits No. new licence applications and their outcomes. Community consultation regarding high risk licence applications. | Local government, and [Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation](https://www.vcglr.vic.gov.au/) |
| Alcohol prevalence | Alcohol guidelines  | [National Health and Medical Research Council](https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/health-advice/alcohol#download) |
| Alcohol UseSingle occasion risky drinkingLifetime risky drinking  | [National Drug Strategy Household Survey](http://www.aihw.gov.au/alcohol-and-other-drugs/ndshs/) |
| School student alcohol useAttitudes towards alcoholSource of alcohol  | [Australian School Students Alcohol and Drug Survey](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/australian-secondary-school-students-alcohol-and-drug-assad-survey-2017) |
| Alcohol-related harm  | Alcohol-related Hospitalisations | [AODStats by Turning Point](https://www.aodstats.org.au/index.php)  |
| Alcohol-related Deaths | [AODStats by Turning Point](https://www.aodstats.org.au/index.php) |
| Alcohol-related road crashes  | [Transport Accident Commission Drink Driving Statistics](https://www.tac.vic.gov.au/road-safety/statistics/summaries/drink-driving-statistics)  |
| Alcohol-related domestic and non-domestic assaults  | [AODStats by Turning Point](https://www.aodstats.org.au/index.php) |
| Burden of alcohol-related disease and injury  | Burden of alcohol on healthy life lost from death and illness  | [Australian Burden of Disease Study](http://www.aihw.gov.au/burden-of-disease/)  |
| Cost of Alcohol-related Hospitalisations | [The costs of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drug abuse to Australian society in 2004/05. Collins and Lapsley, 2008.](https://nadk.flinders.edu.au/files/3013/8551/1279/Collins__Lapsley_Report.pdf) [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – Economic Impacts](https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/alcohol/alcohol-tobacco-other-drugs-australia/contents/impacts/economic-impacts) |
| Alcohol-related crime and safety | Alcohol-related call outsAlcohol-related assaultsNo. Liquor infringements  | [AODStats by Turning Point](https://www.aodstats.org.au/index.php) |