

Community Based Road Safety
Safe Celebrations – safer young people on the roads
Kristy Abbott & Helen Twomey
Youthsafe

Parties and celebrations are an important element of becoming an adult. Parties provide young people with an opportunity to socialise, meet other young people and to celebrate significant life events. But while parties are important for social developmental reasons, they can also bring into play a range of risk factors that when combined, work together to increase the risk of injury to young people. The combination of peer dynamics, a tendency towards high-risk behaviours and a desire to 'let go' at parties can make for an environment of heightened risk. Add to this the increased potential for young people to consume alcohol and/or drugs at a party and the risk of injury and other harm increases even further.

Using an Action Inquiry approach, Youthsafe has facilitated an investigation into the risks associated with youth parties and approaches to making them safer. The process so far has encompassed a literature review, focus groups with young people, interviews with key informants, a metropolitan and three regional based professional forums, and a stakeholder meeting. Each phase has built upon the findings and recommendations of the previous phases, resulting in an ever clearer understanding of the issues.

The major findings of this investigation have been compiled in a discussion paper titled, "Working Together for Safe Youth Celebrations in NSW". This paper also explores and discusses the collaborative approaches for dealing with emerging safe celebrating priorities.

For a copy of this paper, or for more information, please contact Youthsafe:

Phone: (02) 9809 4615

Fax: (02) 9809 6521

Email: kristya@youthsafe.org