



Hon Ann Bressington MLC

Parliament House
North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000
Phone: 08 8237 9541
Fax: 08 8237 9534

MEDIA RELEASE
Monday, 27 November 2006

**INDEPENDENT MLC CALLS FOR TOUGHER
SUPERVISION AND CONSEQUENCES FOR
SCHOOLIES (AND TOOLIES) WHO BREAK THE LAW**

Independent MLC Ann Bressington is planning to introduce a Bill which would enable police to charge young people either using or in possession of alcohol or drugs at Schoolies Week, and expelled from the event (rather than just the current expiation notice).

Ms Bressington said young people are learning that breaking the law is not a serious matter, and research shows offenders are then more likely to go on to commit further and often more serious offences.

Ms Bressington also called on police powers to be widened so that sniffer dogs and drug testing should be implemented at events like schoolies week.

There were 32 arrests in the first 48 hours compared to a total of 18 arrests over the three days of schoolies in 2005. Over the first two nights there were six positive driver drug tests with 214 on the spot fines for dry zone breaches.

“Those toolies who attend such events should face serious charges of endangering lives and possession and sale of illicit drugs where that applies,” Ms Bressington said.

“A clear message needs to be sent out that our kids have every right to celebrate the finish of school but this does not mean that it is an open licence to break the law and mock our law enforcement.”

“As a community we have to stop pretending that drugs and alcohol are not a serious problem and start looking for solutions to reign in the lawlessness and antisocial behaviour that is becoming problematic in many aspects of our society.”

Ann Bressington will hold a media conference in the Courtyard of Parliament House at 2:30 pm today