



**Personal information on the author**

First Name **Ross**

Last Name **HOMEL**

Position **Professor and Director, Griffith Institute for Social and Behavioural Research**

Organisation **Griffith University Australia**

**Most important career path**

Ross Homel is Foundation Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia, and Director of the Griffith Institute for Social and Behavioural Research, a virtual network of over 100 academic staff in the social and behavioural sciences. He has held senior research management positions within Griffith University since 1993 including as Director of the highly successful Australian Research Council Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance between 2004 and 2007. He was responsible (with Jan Carter) for establishing a national set of research priorities to advance the wellbeing of children and young people and for setting up a new Australian Research Council research network, while undertaking a half time role with the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth in 2002 and 2003. Between 1994 and 1999 he was a part time Commissioner for the Queensland Criminal Justice Commission. He is Vice-President of the Council for Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS), a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences and a member of the Academy Executive, and has won numerous awards for his research on the prevention of crime, violence and injuries. Professor Homel's accomplishments were recognised in January 2008 when he was appointed an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO) "for service to education, particularly in the field of criminology, through research into the causes of crime, early intervention and prevention methods." In May 2008 he was recognized with an award from the Premier of Queensland as a 'Queensland Great', "for his contribution to Queensland's reputation for research excellence, the development of social policy and justice reform and helping Queensland's disadvantaged communities." In December 2008 he was shortlisted for 2009 Australian of the Year.

**Title of presentation**

Violence in and around bars, clubs and pubs: Why it happens, what we know about stopping it, and what we need to do to know more?

**Information about the contribution**

Given the ubiquity internationally of violence in and around licensed premises, and given the magnitude of the problem, it is surprising that so little is known about what works to reduce the problem, especially on a sustained basis. Most popular strategies, including reactive policing, responsible alcohol serving programs, and partnerships such as alcohol or licensing accords, either have not been rigorously evaluated or (in some cases) have been shown to be mostly ineffective in reducing aggression and violence. Large-scale strategies that research does suggest would be very effective, such as increasing the price of alcohol, limiting opening hours or the number of outlets, or raising the drinking age, are seldom implemented. This paper summarises the risk factors and interactional processes that lead to aggression and violence in the licensed environment. It also describes a model of prevention, and a strategy for developing a practical and scientifically rigorous research design, tailored to local conditions in selected parts of Australia and New Zealand, which allows the generation of persuasive new evidence about the short- and long-term effectiveness of a combination of prevention strategies in reducing violence.