RESPONSIBLE PARTYING AT END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Minister for Justice Peter Toyne has appealed to parents and families to take the lead in making sure teenage children behave responsibly.

Dr Toyne said he’d had worrying reports of school end-of-year celebrations and birthday parties being disrupted by alcohol-fuelled violence in Alice Springs.

“This isn’t about being a party pooper – it’s about making sure no-one’s Christmas cheer is ruined by violence,” Dr Toyne said.

“People have already been injured and I’m very concerned about the role underage drinking seems to have in these incidents.

“These types of incidents also tie-up valuable police resources.

“With the lead up to the end of the school year and Christmas, families have to make sure teenagers can enjoy their celebrations in a safe environment.

“I appeal to families to do their utmost to make sure that parties are supervised, that alcohol is consumed responsibly, and importantly, to know where their kids are and that they’ve been invited to these parties.

Dr Toyne said he’d met with police and a group of parents in Alice Springs concerned about some of the recent incidents.

“From what I’ve been told, there have been clashes between two groups of young people and I will be meeting with other families involved to get both sides of this story,” he said.

“The bottom line is that the laws on violence and underage drinking are clear and are there to be used.

“I encourage people to report incidents to police so action can be taken and to also be aware that they can register these parties with police.

“But parents must realise they do have influence when it comes to their kids’ attitudes to drinking and behaving responsibly.”

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