



## Committee for Tertiary Ministry

### ALCOHOL POLICY

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## Alcohol Policy of the Committee for Tertiary Ministry (CTM)

### **1. Summary**

The Committee for Tertiary Ministry (CTM) has governance and oversight of the Ministry known as Lutheran Students and Friends (LSF).

The CTM has a Duty of Care to provide a safe and secure environment for the Tertiary Ministry Community it ministers to. This includes providing a variety of safe social environments for the LSF.

Consumption of alcohol is commonly part of social interaction. The CTM's role is not to enforce stringent consumption of alcohol guidelines upon the Tertiary Ministry Community, but to provide guidance and a safe environment so that the LSF can consume alcohol responsibly if they so choose.

**This role involves the CTM, and members of the LSF in leadership positions, setting a Christian example to the Tertiary Community with regard to the consumption of alcohol at events organized by the CTM.**

### **2. Intended Audience**

All persons who are directly and indirectly involved with the Ministry of LSF.

The guidelines and statements contained in this policy are for public consumption.

### **3. Compliance**

The CTM has ultimate responsibility for compliance with this policy so far as it extends to any Ministry under its control or oversight.

This policy applies to all events organised by the CTM.

#### **4. Alcohol Policy**

##### **Guidance:**

The consumption of alcohol will generally be permitted at *events organised by the CTM*. This statement acknowledges that the vast majority of the LSF are older than 18 and can be expected to behave in a mature and Christ-like manner.

The consumption of alcohol at *events organized by the CTM* is subject to legal requirements, namely –

- The consumer must be 18 or older
- The consumption of alcohol is permitted at that particular venue.

If large numbers of people younger than 18 are expected at an *event organised by the CTM*, or if the venue will not permit the consumption of alcohol, then the event will be declared alcohol-free by the CTM. This is made clear in the publicity material by incorporating the following statement: **“this is an alcohol FREE event”**

If the consumption of alcohol is permitted at an *event organized by the CTM*, then this is made clear in the publicity material by incorporating the following statement:

**“the consumption of alcohol is permitted at this event, in accordance with the CTM’s Alcohol Policy”**

See Figure 1 for the recommended procedure for incorporating alcohol into LSF events.

##### **Providing a safe social environment:**

When the consumption of alcohol is permitted at an *event organised by the CTM*, it is expected that everyone present who is older than 18 will drink responsibly, namely –

- Not over indulging
- Not drink-driving

The CTM cannot control the behaviour of individuals older than 18, but will model appropriate behaviour to **all members** present at the event at **all times**. The CTM should be aware of *Romans, Chapter 14*, which exhorts those strong in faith not to be a stumbling block to others.

A ‘Party Safe’ attitude and environment will accompany the consumption of alcohol at *events organized by the CTM*. Including –

- Ensuring that food is readily available at the event for all guests.
- Offering non-alcoholic drinks.
- Having one responsible person who is not drinking.

For further information on ‘Party Safe’, refer to the Victorian Police website <http://www.police.vic.gov.au/showcontentpage.cfm?contentpageid=6793>.

In particular, the following actions should be taken at annual LSF events:

### ***LSF Ball***

- The event will be held at a licensed venue.
- Alcoholic drinks are **NOT** to be included in the ticket price
- The provision of non-alcoholic drinks is to be subsidized by the CTM
- A meal will be included in the ticket price
- A designated member of the CTM, or the LSF sub-committee organising the LSF Ball, will abstain from consuming alcohol, so that in the event of an incident (medical or otherwise), this person is in a position to take charge.

### ***Commencement Camp (jointly organized with the CLY)***

- Refer to Commencement Camp (CC) Alcohol Policy, which is specific to CC.

### ***LSF National Conference hosted by Victoria***

- A designated member of the CTM, or the LSF sub-committee organising LSF National Conference, will abstain from consuming alcohol, so that in the event of an incident (medical or otherwise), this person is in a position to take charge.

### **Unacceptable Consumption of Alcohol**

- At alcohol-free *events organized by the CTM*, the consumption of alcohol is unacceptable.
- For people younger than 18, the consumption of alcohol at **any** event organized by the CTM is unacceptable.
- Over indulging in the consumption of alcohol at **any** event organized by the CTM is unacceptable.
- Consuming excessive alcohol at **any** event organized by the CTM, and then driving is unacceptable.

### **Steps to Deal With Those Participating in the Unacceptable Consumption of Alcohol**

If a member of the CTM, LSF sub-committee organising the event, or any other leader within the LSF becomes aware of individual(s) drinking when they should not, they should confront the individual(s) and explain to them that they are not permitted to drink (and why).

If the individual(s) continue to drink, then one of the Tertiary Chaplains (or a CTM member, if there are no Tertiary Chaplains available) should be involved. The Tertiary Chaplain, together with the LSF sub-committee organising the event will decide the appropriate response to the individual(s) who continue to drink.

Recommended responses include:

1. Requiring the individual(s) to leave the event.
2. Involving the venue owners and/or police.

**Any Tertiary Chaplain, or member of the CTM or LSF sub-committee organising the event, that enforces the CTM's Alcohol Policy must enforce it with minimum fuss, ensuring that as few people as possible are aware of the situation.**

**Those involved in enforcing the CTM's Alcohol Policy must enforce it with Christian love and concern.**

**The CTM will fully support any decision made by a Tertiary Chaplain, the LSF sub-committee organising the event, and/or its own members in enforcing CTM's Alcohol Policy.**

Additional Resources:

*Interim Policy on Serving and Consumption of Alcohol at Student Events*. The University of Melbourne, 2002.

*Guidelines for the Responsible Serving of Alcohol*. Liquor Licensing Victoria, 2001.

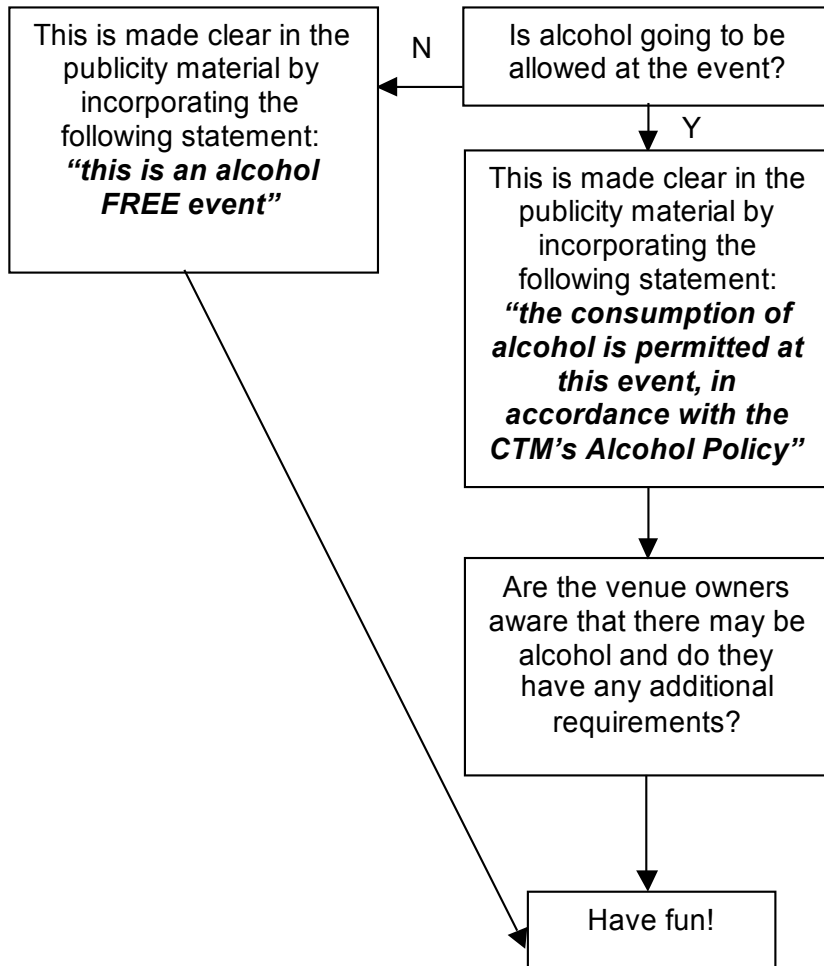


Figure 1. Recommended procedure for integrating alcohol into LSF events.

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