

## **December: Party Smart**

A great party can be something everyone will enjoy and talk about for years afterwards. But a party that goes wrong will be talked about too, for all the wrong reasons. No one wants a bad party. The trick is to party smart.

There are a few simple steps you can take, before and during the party that will help make it the great time we all want. These tips are for parents and supervisors as well as guests.

### **Party Hosts**

#### **Prevent complaints from neighbours**

- Inform neighbours in advance of the party.

#### **Keep out the gatecrashers**

- Issue written invitations and make entry by invitation only.

#### **Stop the strayers**

- Put a finishing time as well as a start time on the invitation.

#### **Supervise**

- If it's a young person's party make sure there are non-drinking adults in attendance.

#### **Arrange transport**

- Encourage parents to collect their children at a pre-arranged time.

#### **Supply the drinks**

- BYO parties can lead to excessive supply and unsupervised drinking.

#### **Serve the drinks**

- Make alcohol available from one area, served by a non-drinking adult.

#### **Provide alternatives**

- Non-alcoholic and low alcoholic drinks allow guests to have a drink in their hand without increasing their alcohol consumption.

#### **Limit supplies**

- Restrict the supply of full strength beers, champagne, wine and spirits.

#### **Feed the guests**

- Eating can slow down the rate at which alcohol is absorbed, but avoid salty foods which will encourage more drinking.

### **Party Guests**

#### **Keep it to yourself**

- Don't tell others who haven't been invited about the party, the most common cause of gatecrashing

#### **Share transport**

- Don't drive to a party if you're going to have a drink, get a lift with others and nominate a designated driver or arrange to be picked up at the end of the party.

#### **Go with invited friends**

- Link up with others to look out for each other, both at the party and getting home.

## **Parents**

If your child has been invited to a party:

### **Check it out**

- Speak with the host's parents about the invitation list, numbers attending, age range, food and alcohol provision and pick up times.

### **Get their number**

- Make sure you know the address and telephone number of the venue.

### **Drop off and pick up**

- Be clear about when to drop your child off and when to pick them up, avoiding children collecting on the street unsupervised.

Most of all remember, you are the host, you can ask people to leave. Be verbally assertive to gain control of the situation. Call police if matters are getting out of control, before they get worse.

Take a browse through the information in the Party Smart Booklet located on ACT Policing's website at [www.afp.gov.au/act](http://www.afp.gov.au/act)

**Source: ACT Policing**