

## **Alcohol Policy Research Program, 2007**

Progress Report  
to the  
Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation  
January, 2008

### Aims of the Program

As noted in the Agreement establishing the Program, the project seeks to expand the evidence base of information and knowledge to underpin discussions and decisions about what to do in response to harmful consequences of alcohol in Australia. It aims to do this through undertaking specific studies on policy-relevant questions; through collating and reviewing the knowledge base for alcohol policy initiatives; through building capacity to assess, analyse, inform communities and provide leadership on alcohol policy issues; and by contributing to enhancing Australia's profile in international alcohol policy research.

### The formation and staffing of the AER Centre for Alcohol Policy Research

The institutional form of the alcohol policy research program is the AER Centre for Alcohol Policy Research within the Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre. The Centre is headed by professor Robin Room, who is appointed as a Professor of Social Alcohol Research in the School of Population Health of the University of Melbourne. Money for most of Professor Room's position is provided by the Victorian Department of Human Services. Resources to support the Centre are also provided by Turning Point. Thus the Centre is operating as a partnership among four institutions, as envisaged in the Agreement between Turning Point and AERF.

The Centre began functioning when Robin Room took up his appointment at the University of Melbourne on 27 March, 2006. Michael Livingston joined the staff during 2006, and Claire Wilkinson during 2007. Towards the end of 2007, Anne-Marie Laslett took up a 60% position as coordinator of the Alcohol's harm to others project, discussed below. In its work, the Centre cooperates closely with the epidemiology program staff at Turning Point, in particular Sharon Matthews and Paul Dietze (who has now moved to the Burnet Institute).

### The Centre's main lines of work

*Alcohol policy impact research.* The last half century has seen the establishment of a substantial international tradition of alcohol impact studies – studies of the effects of particular changes in alcohol controls and other policy measures. This tradition is a primary resource for reviews of the effects of alcohol policies such as Babor et al., *Alcohol – No Ordinary Commodity* or the relevant section in Loxley et al., *The Prevention of Substance Use, Risk and Harm in Australia*.

As noted in the 2006 Centre Report, a substantial current issue in urban Australia is the proliferation of sales-places for alcohol in recent years. The extent to

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which the density of outlets makes a difference in rates of alcohol-related harm has thus become a question frequently posed to alcohol policy researchers.

In 2006, the Centre staff initiated a two-pronged response on this issue. A review of the literature on the density of liquor licensing and the occurrence of alcohol-related trouble was completed in the first months of 2007, and submitted to DHS Victoria. A conceptual and review paper based on this review, completed in collaboration with Tanya Chikritzhs of the National Drug Research Institute, was published in 2007.<sup>1</sup>

Concurrently, we have initiated empirical studies of the question, using a data-file on liquor licenses from the last 15 years, assembled with the cooperation of the Liquor Licensing staff in Consumer Affairs Victoria. For data on alcohol-related harm, we have been able to draw on the anonymized files assembled by the Epidemiology program at Turning Point. A paper analysing the cross-sectional relationship of alcohol outlet density and assault was presented at an international scientific meeting (where it won the Young Scholar Award for the best paper by a early-career scholar presented at the meeting).<sup>2</sup> A revised version has now been accepted for publication.<sup>3</sup> A second paper examining the effect over time of change in number of outlets on rates of assault has been presented at a scientific meeting,<sup>4</sup> and is currently in submission to a scientific journal.

In future, we will seek further opportunities to carry out alcohol policy impact studies. Particularly interesting, because they carry more weight with respect to causation, are studies of change, in the form either of a discrete policy change or, as in the case of the density study outlined above, of series of small changes over time.

One direction in which we will be proposing work is to undertake time-series analyses of the relations of consumption, harms and policies. Australia has good alcohol consumption and mortality data at the state level over a period of about 90 years (consumption data at the state level unfortunately ends in 1995), and this provides an excellent basis for time series analyses of the relation of changes in consumption changes in various specific causes of death, which will yield independent estimates at the aggregate level of the fraction of the cause of death attributable to alcohol. Since such analyses have been carried out for western European countries and Canada and are currently under way for eastern Europe and the U.S., the analysis also results in a comparative picture of where Australia stands in

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<sup>1</sup> Livingston, M., Chikritzhs, T. & Room, R. (2007) Changing the density of alcohol outlets to reduce alcohol-related problems. *Drug and Alcohol Review* 26:557-566.

<sup>2</sup> Livingston, M. Alcohol outlet density and assault: A spatial analysis. Presented at the 33rd Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society for Social and Epidemiological Research on Alcohol, Budapest, Hungary, 4-8 June, 2007.

<sup>3</sup> Livingston, M. (forthcoming) Alcohol outlet density and assault: A spatial analysis. *Addiction*.

<sup>4</sup> Livingston, M. The impact of alcohol outlet density on assault in Melbourne – 1996 to 2005. Presented at the annual meeting of the Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and Drugs, Auckland, NZ, 5-7 November, 2007.

terms of the strength of the alcohol relations. Interrupted time series analysis will also allow an examination of the effects of substantial alcohol policy changes on rates of alcohol-attributable harm.

*Studies of heavy drinking and of harms from drinking in general populations.*

Australia, and in particular Victoria, has well-established traditions of surveys of general populations, both youth and adult, on alcohol consumption and some other aspects of drinking. However, some aspects highly relevant to prevention and policy are not so well covered. These include contexts of drinking and social interactions around drinking, problems from one's own drinking, problems from others' drinking, and attitudes to drinking and drunkenness and to alcohol policies. As detailed below, our aim is to fill in some of this gap with the Centre's work in the coming months.

1. GENACIS. Fieldwork was conducted during 2007 on a specific study associated with the Centre: the Australian general-population GENACIS survey, conducted in Victoria. The GENACIS project (GENder, Alcohol and Culture: an International Study) is a complex multinational study involving general population surveys in over 30 countries, with comparable questionnaires. Room has served from the start on the international coordinating committee of the project, which has had support from the European Union, the U.S. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), and the World Health Organization, as well as national funds. He has also coauthored publications from the project, including one appearing in 2007.<sup>5</sup>

The Australian arm of GENACIS is funded by NHMRC. It is being carried out as a collaboration between the Centre and the scholars at Turning Point and the Burnet Institute, with Paul Dietze as the chief investigator, and Robin Room and Sharon Matthews as the other staff of the study. There is a particular focus on gender issues and drinking in GENACIS, but the core questionnaire covers topics also of more general epidemiological interest: included are questions on amount and pattern of drinking, contexts of drinking, problems from drinking, pressures on and from others concerning drinking, and the association of drinking with sexuality and aggression in intimate relations.

A first basic report of the Australian survey results will be produced early in 2008, with further analyses for scholarly publication specifically on the Australian data continuing in 2008 and 2009. Meanwhile, the Australian data will be collated with the international data-sets centralized in Lausanne, and included in a revised CD-ROM of "work decks" available for analysis by participants in the international project. An application to the U.S. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism for further analysis of the international datasets has been funded, with Room as one of the investigators on this five-year program of cross-national data analysis.

2. Heavy drinking and harm among youth. A major focus of current public concern about alcohol in Australia is binge drinking among youth and young adults. A cross-cultural context for this issue was provided by a book on youth drinking cultures,

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<sup>5</sup> Gmel, G., Room, R., Kuendig, H. & Kuntsche, S. (2007) Detrimental drinking patterns: Empirical validation of the pattern values score of the Global Burden of Disease 2000 study in 13 countries. *Journal of Substance Use* 12(5):337-358.

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particularly in Europe, which was coedited by Room and appeared in 2007.<sup>6</sup> In the Australian context, Livingston prepared a report for the Victoria Department of Human Services on trends in risky drinking among young people, drawing on several national and state youth survey series, and also on Victorian hospitalization data.<sup>7</sup> In general, the survey series for recent years did not show any significant trend in either direction upward or downward in rates of heavy drinking, while the hospitalization data did show an upward trend in hospitalizations of teenagers for acute intoxication. The discrepancy in results suggests the possibility of adverse trends at the extreme even in the absence of a significant trend in commoner behaviours. A revision of the paper is under consideration for journal publication.

What low-risk guidelines for drinking by youth should be was part of a broader reconsideration of Australian low-risk guidelines, discussed below. In this context, Room and Livingston reanalysed data from the 2004 National Drug Strategy Household Survey examining the question of the extent of the “harm per litre” for different age-groups: did younger drinkers get in more trouble than older drinkers for a given amount of drinking?<sup>8</sup> Broadly speaking, the answer was “yes”, particularly for drinkers under age 15, and this analysis formed one of the bases for the draft low-risk guidelines which were put out for public review late in 2007.

3. Public opinion and alcohol policies. While many elements contribute to making alcohol policy, the extent of popular support for or opposition to particular policies plays an important role. The series of National Drug Strategy Household surveys have included a selection of questions on alcohol policy attitudes, but there has been little Australian analysis in this area for a number of years. Accordingly, Centre staff took on an analysis of these data, finding that, while public support for policies to limit harms from drinking was generally high, that support had been decreasing for some of the most effect policies. The results were presented at a professional meeting,<sup>9</sup> and a revised version has been submitted for publication.

4. Low-risk drinking guidelines: lifetime risks. During 2007, an NHMRC committee conducted a review and revision of the Australian low-risk guidelines, last revised in 2001. As a member of the committee, Room proposed a new basis for the guidelines: that they be founded on analyses of the lifetime risk associated with different levels and patterns and drinking. This is a basis commonly used in setting guidelines for other risks, for instance from contaminants or carcinogens in the water or

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<sup>6</sup> Järvinen, M. & Room, R., eds. (2007) *Youth Drinking Cultures: European Experiences*. Aldershot, Hampshire & Burlington, Vermont: Ashgate.

<sup>7</sup> Livingston, M. (2007) *Trends in risky drinking among Victorian young people*. Report to the Drugs Policy and Service Branch, Department of Human Services, State of Victoria.

<sup>8</sup> Room, R. & Livingston, M. (2007) *Variation by age in the harm per drinking volume and heavier drinking occasion*. Report to the Australian Alcohol Guidelines Committee, NHMRC, September.

<sup>9</sup> Room, R. & Wilkinson, C. Mapping Australian public opinion on alcohol policies in the new millennium. Presented at the annual meeting of the Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and Drugs, Auckland, NZ, 5-7 November, 2007.

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food supply. The Committee's acceptance of this proposal meant there was an urgent need to conduct such analyses. An informal collaborative project was undertaken with Jürgen Rehm and other staff of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Ontario, resulting in two reports submitted to the Committee, one on lifetime risks of death from chronic disease resulting from overall volume of alcohol consumption, and the other on lifetime risks of death from injury as a cumulative result of differing frequencies of drinking occasions at specific levels.<sup>10</sup> The analyses formed the primary basis for the main general guideline on drinking in the draft Guidelines put out for review late in 2007.<sup>11</sup> Three articles revised from the reports submitted to the Committee are currently under consideration by scholarly journals.

5. The range and magnitude of alcohol's harm to others. On 1 November, 2007, a two-year project on harms from drinking to others than the drinker was launched. This is commissioned work funded by AERF, and involves also collaborating researchers at the National Drug Research Institute (Perth) and the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (Sydney). A first plenary project meeting was held in Melbourne on 3-4 December, 2007.

The study aims to build a conceptual basis for estimating the adverse effects of alcohol on third parties, and to build a knowledge base on the nature, size, cost and phenomenology of such effects. The study uses Australian data to measure the size of various adverse effects attributable to others' drinking, to describe the demographic and other characteristics of those most affected by each type of harm, and, to the extent possible, to delineate the influence of contextual factors and circumstances on the occurrence of the harm.

In its empirical work, the study is using two main approaches. One is work with existing datasets which can be analyzed in terms of the concerns of the study. The second approach is to collect and analyze new data for the study. Primarily, this will take the form of a new adult population survey with detailed questioning about the respondent's quality of life, about adverse effects of others' drinking experienced by the respondent, and about the relationship of the respondent to other family members or close friends with alcohol problems.

A first fruit of the study is a paper by Livingston and Room, reanalysing the data in footnote 8 above, which has been submitted for publication.

*Alcohol policy in a global perspective.* As noted in the 2006 Centre Report, "in a globalizing world, alcohol policy increasingly involves an international dimension".

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<sup>10</sup> Taylor, B., Rehm, J., Patra, J. & Room, R. (2007) *Determination of alcohol-attributable lifetime risk for chronic conditions for different levels of average consumption.* Report to the Australian Alcohol Guidelines Committee, NHMRC, July.

Rehm, J., Taylor, B., Patra, J. & Room, R. (2007) *Determination of injury mortality risk by volume and number of drinking occasions.* Report to the Australian Alcohol Guidelines Committee, NHMRC, August.

<sup>11</sup> NHMRC (2007) *Australian Alcohol Guidelines for Low-Risk Drinking: Draft for Public Consultation.* Canberra: NHMRC.

[http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/consult/files/draft\\_australian\\_alcohol\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/consult/files/draft_australian_alcohol_guidelines.pdf)

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During 2007, Room present papers at two international meetings on the international history of efforts to control alcohol and other psychoactive substances, and a paper drawing on these has been accepted for publication.<sup>12</sup>

The main international organ of public health attention to alcohol issues has been the World Health Organization. A resolution on alcohol policy cosponsored by 50 nations at the World Health Assembly in 2007 failed to pass, and further efforts to establish alcohol programming on a more regular basis are expected in 2008. As a step towards this, the report of the Expert Committee on Problems Related to Alcohol Consumption, for which Room served as the rapporteur, was published in 2007.<sup>13</sup> Collaborative work by four scholars including Room continued on alcohol and social determinants of health, as part of the work of the WHO Commission on the Social Determinants of Health.<sup>14</sup>

More as an autonomous scientific collaboration, an international group of researchers have been working on a model of factors which could explain changes in consumption in a given population.<sup>15</sup> This is an effort to move beyond the consideration of particular determinative factors such as taxes, density of outlets and other dimensions of availability, to consider what other factors also potentially play a role. The intention is to move in the future beyond the conceptual level to modeling actual national experiences over time.

As noted in last year's annual report, "WHO's commitment in the alcohol area remains on somewhat shaky ground, since such a commitment is viewed very skeptically by some powerful members.... There is a substantial opportunity for Australia to play a positive role in the next couple of years in pushing for an active WHO program. As for tobacco, a strong program at WHO would tend to reflect back favourably on the alcohol policy environment in Australia." We repeat the suggestion that the AERF might consider whether it wants to take an active institutional interest in this area.

### The Centre's standing

The Centre's efforts have gradually and successfully expanded during 2007, its second year of existence. With the addition of Wilkinson and Laslett to the Centre

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<sup>12</sup> Room, R. (forthcoming) "Justly anxious respecting the moral and material consequences": The proliferation of international control regimes for psychoactive substances. *Social History of Alcohol and Drugs*.

<sup>13</sup> WHO Expert Committee on Problems Related to Alcohol Consumption (2007) *Second Report*. Geneva: WHO Technical Report Series No. 944.  
[http://www.who.int/substance\\_abuse/expert\\_committee\\_alcohol\\_trs944.pdf](http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/expert_committee_alcohol_trs944.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> Schmidt, L., Mäkelä, P., Room, R. & Rehm, J. (2007) *Alcohol and Social Determinants of Health*. Report to the World Health Organization, November.

<sup>15</sup> Room, R., Österberg, E., Ramstedt, M. & Rehm, J. Towards a general model for explaining change and stasis in alcohol consumption. Presented at the 33rd Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society for Social and Epidemiological Research on Alcohol, Budapest, Hungary, 4-8 June, 2007.

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staff, it is now functioning as a viable research group. The Centre has also built a number of linkages in Victoria. The Director now serves on two state bodies, the Victoria Alcohol Action Plan Taskforce and on the Victoria Alcohol and Drug Prevention Council. In 2008, it is expected that all of the Centre staff other than the Director will be enrolled in dissertation work or a graduate program, and this will facilitate a flow of ideas and methods back and forth with academia.

In 2007, the Centre, along with the Burnet Institute and the Melbourne office of the National Drug Research Institute, initiated the Victorian Substance Use Research Forum (VSURF). This ongoing seminar series showcased current developments in alcohol and drug research from local, interstate and international researchers. VSURF has brought together a regular audience of alcohol and drug researchers and policy-makers from across Victoria and has broadened the links between this diverse group, contributing to a developing cohesion across the field in Victoria.

Links with research in other states have also strengthened. For instances, the forthcoming joint work on the Alcohol's harm to others project strengthens already existing collaborations with Tanya Chikritzhs and others at NDRI, and strengthens working relationships also with researchers at NDARC. Room's service on the NHMRC Working Committee on the Australian Alcohol Guidelines has also brought strengthened ties.

Both nationally and internationally, the Centre is receiving increasing recognition for its work in alcohol policy research and related fields.

## **APPENDICES**

- A.** Listing of publications and presentations in 2007.
- B.** Livingston, M., Chikritzhs, T. & Room, R. (2007) Changing the density of alcohol outlets to reduce alcohol-related problems. *Drug and Alcohol Review* 26:557-566.
- C.** Livingston, M. (forthcoming) Alcohol outlet density and assault: A spatial analysis. *Addiction*.
- D.** Livingston, M. A longitudinal analysis of alcohol outlet density and assault. Submitted for review for publication.
- E.** Livingston, M. Recent trends in risky alcohol consumption and related harm amongst young people in Victoria, Australia. Submitted for review for publication.
- F.** Livingston, M. & Room, R. Variations by age and sex in alcohol-related problematic behaviour per drinking volume and heavier drinking occasion. Submitted for review for publication.

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- G.** Wilkinson, C., Room, R. & Livingston, M. Mapping Australian public opinion on alcohol policies in the new millennium. Submitted for review for publication.
- H.** Rehm, J. Room, R. & Taylor, B. Method for moderation: measuring lifetime risk of alcohol-attributable mortality as a basis for drinking guidelines. Submitted for review for publication.
- I.** Room, R., Österberg, E., Ramstedt, M. & Rehm, J. Towards a general model for explaining change and stasis in alcohol consumption. Submitted for review for publication.

## **Appendix A. Publications and presentations in 2007**

Names of AERC Centre staff members are **in bold** where there are coauthors not from the Centre.

### **BOOK**

Järvinen, M. & **Room, R.**, eds. (2007) *Youth Drinking Cultures: European Experiences*. Aldershot, Hampshire & Burlington, Vermont: Ashgate.

### **CHAPTERS IN BOOKS**

Järvinen, M. & **Room, R.** (2007) Conclusion: changing drunken comportment or reducing alcohol-related harm. Pp. 161-174 in: Järvinen, M. & Room, R., eds. *Youth Drinking Cultures: European Experiences*. Aldershot, Hampshire & Burlington, Vermont: Ashgate.

Järvinen, M. & **Room, R.** (2007) Youth drinking cultures: European experiences. Pp. 1-16 in: Järvinen, M. & Room, R., eds. (2007) *Youth Drinking Cultures: European Experiences*. Aldershot, Hampshire & Burlington, Vermont: Ashgate.

Room, R. (2006) Social policy and psychoactive substances. In: Nutt, D.J., Robbins, T.W., Stimson, G.V., Ince, M. & Jackson, A., eds. *Drugs and the Future: Brain Science, Addiction and Society*, pp. 337-359. London: Academic Press.

Room, R. (2007) Understanding cultural differences in young people's drinking. Pp. 17-40 in: Järvinen, M. & Room, R., eds. *Youth Drinking Cultures: European Experiences*. Aldershot, Hampshire & Burlington, Vermont: Ashgate.

Room, R. (forthcoming) Alcohol. In: Detels, R. ed., *Oxford Textbook of Public Health, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.* Oxford, etc.: Oxford University Press.

Room, R. (forthcoming) Prevention of alcohol problems. In: Gelder, M., ed., *Oxford Textbook of Psychiatry*, 2nd edition. Oxford, etc.: Oxford University Press.

### **ARTICLES IN JOURNALS**

Gmel, G., **Room, R.**, Kuendig, H. & Kuntsche, S. (2007) Detrimental drinking patterns: Empirical validation of the pattern values score of the Global Burden of Disease 2000 study in 13 countries. *Journal of Substance Use* 12(5):337-358.

Hradilova Selin, K. & **Room, R.** (2007) Social problems from drinking in the Swedish general population: measurement and reliability. *Journal of Substance Use* 12:103-118.

Jarl, J., Johansson, P., Eriksson, A., Eriksson, M., Gerdtham, U.-G., Hemström, Ö., Hradilova Selin, K., Lenke, L., Ramstedt, M. & **Room, R.** (forthcoming) The social cost of alcohol in Sweden 2002. *European Journal of Health Economics*. Available prepublication at DOI: 10.1007/s10198-007-0092-z.

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Livingston, M. (forthcoming) Alcohol outlet density and assault: A spatial analysis. *Addiction*.

**Livingston, M., Chikritzhs, T. & Room, R.** (2007) Changing the density of alcohol outlets to reduce alcohol-related problems. *Drug and Alcohol Review* 26:557-566.

Mäkelä, P., Bloomfield, K., Nina-Katri Gustafsson, N.-K., Huhtanen, P. & **Room, R.** (2008) Changes in volume of drinking after changes in alcohol taxes and travellers' allowances: results from a panel study, *Addiction* 103(2):181-191.

Najman, J.M., Williams, G.M. & **Room, R.** (2007) Increasing socioeconomic inequalities in male cirrhosis of the liver mortality: Australia 1981-2002. *Drug and Alcohol Review* 26:273-278.

Room, R. (forthcoming) "Justly anxious respecting the moral and material consequences": The proliferation of international control regimes for psychoactive substances. *Social History of Alcohol and Drugs*.

Room, R. (forthcoming) National variations in the use of alcohol and drug research: notes of an itinerant worker. *Nordic Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*.

## **REPORTS**

Livingston, M. (2007) *Trends in risky drinking among Victorian young people*. Report to the Drugs Policy and Service Branch, Department of Human Services, State of Victoria.

Livingston, M. & Room, R. (2007) *Measuring the effects of alcohol outlet density on public health and order: a review*. Report to the Drugs Policy and Service Branch, Department of Human Services, State of Victoria.

Mäkelä, P., Bloomfield, K., Gustafsson, N.-K. & **Room, R.** (2007) *Effects of Major Changes in Alcohol Availability: Study Design, Data Collection Procedures and Measurement*. Research Report No. 46. Stockholm: SoRAD, Stockholm University.

Rehm, J., Taylor, B., Patra, J. & **Room, R.** (2007) *Determination of injury mortality risk by volume and number of drinking occasions*. Report to the Australian Alcohol Guidelines Committee, NHMRC, August.

[Room, R., rapporteur] WHO Expert Committee on Problems Related to Alcohol Consumption (2007) *Second Report*. Geneva: WHO Technical Report Series No. 944. [http://www.who.int/substance\\_abuse/expert\\_committee\\_alcohol\\_trs944.pdf](http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/expert_committee_alcohol_trs944.pdf)

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Room, R. & Livingston, M. (2007) *Variation by age in the harm per drinking volume and heavier drinking occasion*. Report to the Australian Alcohol Guidelines Committee, NHMRC, September.

**Room, R.** & Tigerstedt, C. (2007) *Nordic Alcohol Policies and the Welfare State*. Report to the project “The Nordic Experience: Welfare States and Public Health”, of the WHO Commission on the Social Determinants of Health, January.

Schmidt, L., Mäkelä, P., **Room, R.** & Rehm, J. (2007) *Alcohol and Social Determinants of Health*. Report to the World Health Organization, November.

Taylor, B., Rehm, J., Patra, J. & **Room, R.** (2007) *Determination of alcohol-attributable lifetime risk for chronic conditions for different levels of average consumption*. Report to the Australian Alcohol Guidelines Committee, NHMRC, July.

#### **PAPER PRESENTATIONS**

Room, R. & Livingston, M. Density of liquor outlets in relation to alcohol problems in Victoria. Presentation at Liquor Control Advisory Board, Melbourne, Australia, 19 January, 2007.

Room, R. Culture, the market and public health as competing frames: the case of alcohol policy. Seminar presentation, Injury Prevention Research Unit, University of Otago, Dunedin, N.Z., 29 January, 2007.

Room, R. Australian alcohol guidelines: a research perspective. Presented at a forum, “The Australian Alcohol Guidelines: Is It Time for a New Direction?” Premier’s Drug Prevention Council, Melbourne, Australia, 1 February, 2007.

**Laslett, A.-M.**, Matthews, S. & Dietze, P. Alcohol use and harm among young people: the data on local government areas. Presented at the conference, Thinking Drinking II: From Problems to Solutions, Melbourne, 26-28 February, 2007.

Livingston, M. Alcohol outlet density and harm: reviewing the evidence. Presented at the conference, Thinking Drinking II: From Problems to Solutions, Melbourne, 26-28 February, 2007.

Room, R. Who wants to get drunk? Intoxication as a pleasure and a purpose. Presentation at the conference, Thinking Drinking II: From Problems to Solutions, Melbourne, 26-28 February, 2007.

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- Room, R. Alcohol policy: issues and challenges for Europe and northern Asia. Presentation at a seminar, Developing Effective Alcohol Policy for Russia: World Experience and Russian Realities, Moscow, 1-2 March, 2007.
- Room, R. How should the international drug control treaties be understood? Presented at the first meeting of the International Society for the Study of Drug Policy, Oslo, 22-23 March, 2007.
- Room, R. Prescription regimes and drug control. Presented at the School of Population Health Research Seminar Series, University of Melbourne, Carlton, Victoria, 18 April, 2007.
- Room, R. The program portfolio: strengths, weaknesses and challenges. Presentation at the Opening Seminar of the Research Programme on Substance Use and Addictions, Academy of Finland, Säätytalo, Helsinki, 26-27 April, 2007.
- Livingston, M. Alcohol outlet density and harm: reviewing the evidence. Presented at the Victorian Safer Communities Network Alcohol After Dark seminar, Melbourne, Australia, 16 May, 2007
- Livingston, M. Alcohol outlet density and assault: A spatial analysis. Presented at the 33rd Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society for Social and Epidemiological Research on Alcohol, Budapest, Hungary, 4-8 June, 2007.
- Livingston, M, Laslett, A.-M. & Dietze, P.** Individual and community correlates of young people's high-risk drinking in Victoria, Australia. Presented at the 33rd Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society for Social and Epidemiological Research on Alcohol, Budapest, Hungary, 4-8 June, 2007.
- Room, R., Österberg, E., Ramstedt, M. & Rehm, J.** Towards a general model for explaining change and stasis in alcohol consumption. Presented at the 33rd Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society for Social and Epidemiological Research on Alcohol, Budapest, Hungary, 4-8 June, 2007.
- Room, R. A century of societal responses to alcohol, tobacco and drugs. Archer Tongue Memorial Lecture, 50<sup>th</sup> International ICAA Conference on Dependencies, Stockholm, Sweden, 10-15 June, 2007.
- Livingston, M. Policies to reduce alcohol related harm. What works and what doesn't? Presented at the City of Port Phillip Drugs Round Table, Melbourne, Australia, 28 June, 2007
- Livingston, M. Policies to reduce alcohol related harm. Presented at the City of Port Phillip Licensees Accord, Melbourne, Australia, 7 August, 2007

- Room, R. "Justly anxious respecting the moral and material consequences": The proliferation of international control regimes for psychoactive substances. Presentation at Global Approaches: The 4th International Alcohol and Drug History Conference, Guelph, Ontario, 10-12 August, 2007.
- Room, R. Spirituality and alcohol, drugs and addiction. Presented at a conference on Spirituality and Health: Lifestyle, Culture & the Workplace, Adelaide, Australia, 27-29 August, 2007. Revised version presented at a Salvation Army Tri-territorial Conference on alcohol and drugs, Auckland, 20-21 September, 2007.
- Livingston, M. Alcohol outlet density and violence: what's the relationship in Melbourne? Presented at the Victorian Substance Use Research Forum, Melbourne, Australia, 24 August, 2007
- Room, R. Alcohol policy: evidence and action, globally and locally. Presented at a symposium: Working Out What Works, Fremantle, Western Australia, 18-19 September, 2007.
- Room, R. The role of alcohol in the Global Burden of Disease. Presentation at a conference, "Getting a Grip 2007: Winning or Losing", Malton Hotel, Killarney, Ireland, 5 October, 2007
- Room, R. The role of civil society and nongovernment organizations in preventing alcohol and drug problems. Presented at a NordAN Conference, "NGOs and Policy Making: Role, Co-operation and Responsibility", Reykjavík, Iceland, 13 October, 2007.
- Room, R. National variations in the use of alcohol and drug research: notes of an itinerant worker. Presented at a NAD workshop, "Making use of alcohol and drug research", Reykjavik, Iceland, 13 October, 2007.
- Room, R. Power and intoxication: self-control and discipline for the famous. Lecture in the course, "Regulation of life-styles in welfare society: Power", Sociology Department, Helsinki University, 16 October, 2007.
- Room, R. The range and magnitude of alcohol's harm to others. Presentation at project launch, Turning Point Alcohol & Drug Centre, 1 November, 2007.
- Livingston, M. The impact of alcohol outlet density on assault in Melbourne – 1996 to 2005. Presented at the annual meeting of the Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and Drugs, Auckland, NZ, 5-7 November, 2007.
- Laslett, A.-M. Alcohol use and harm among young people: the data on local government areas. Presented at the annual meeting of the Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and Drugs, Auckland, NZ, 5-7 November, 2007.

**Livingston, M, Laslett, A.-M. & Dietze, P.** Individual and community correlates of young people's high-risk drinking in Victoria, Australia. Presented at the annual meeting of the Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and Drugs, Auckland, NZ, 5-7 November, 2007.

Room, R. & Wilkinson, C. Mapping Australian public opinion on alcohol policies in the new millennium. Presented at the annual meeting of the Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and Drugs, Auckland, NZ, 5-7 November, 2007.

Room, R. The market and public health as competing frames: The case of alcohol policy. Plenary presentation, Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and Drugs annual conference, Auckland, N.Z., 5-7 November, 2007.