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**Title:**  
Press release - Legal Drinking Age

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PRESS RELEASE BY THE HON. A.J. SHARD, M.L.C., LEADER OF  
OPPOSITION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

20.11.68.

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The four Labor Members in the Legislative Council will support a move to have the age of 18 re-inserted in the Licensing Act Amendment Bill as the age at which a person may be able to drink legally, the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, Mr. Shard, announced today.

He said the move would be made as soon as possible after the Bill was introduced into the Council.

Mr. Shard said: "Lowering of the drinking age to 18 is part of the Bill introduced recently in the House of Assembly by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Dunstan, for the age of majority to be lowered to 18.

"By moving this amendment, we will remain in line with Mr. Dunstan's original Bill, and give the Upper House a chance to review the situation.

"There is very substantial evidence in support of a lowering of not only the drinking age, but also the legal age generally.

Mr. Shard said: "It appears from comments made in the Lower House, that many of the Government Members who voted against the lowering of the drinking age, did not even study the subject.

"A report presented to the British Government last year is heavily in favor of the age of majority being 18 for all purposes. Insistence that 21 must be the age of majority is a result of hereditary indoctrination. We must think in present day terms.

"One of the points made in the British report is that the difference between people of 18 and less is much more obvious than the difference between 21 and 18 year olds," Mr. Shard added.

"Surely this report should be acceptable to many of the sceptics who cling to the present drinking age, using the argument of maturity and appearance differences."

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