About alcohol’s $36 Billion cost

Alcohol costs Australians $36 billion every year.

1 The estimated cost of alcohol abuse by drinkers in Australia is $15.3 billion.

2 The Range and Magnitude of Alcohol’s Harm to Others found that the total cost of alcohol-related harms to someone other than the drinker was $20 billion.

When combining the costs identified in the two studies, and allowing for overlaps, the total cost of alcohol misuse in Australia was found to be $36 billion.

The $36 billion figure came about through careful and comprehensive analysis by the report’s chief investigator and Director of the AER Centre for Alcohol Policy Research, Professor Robin Room, and Professor Chris Doran, Health Research Economist, University of Newcastle.

The total cost of harm is not a simple addition of the two figures. The group of experts determined where the overlaps between the AER Foundation’s study and Collins and Lapsley’s study occurred. Changes in cost of living from when Collins and Lapsley’s study was undertaken were also taken into consideration.

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1 2008 D.J. Collins and H.M. Lapsley, The Costs of Tobacco, Alcohol and Illicit Drug Abuse to Australian Society in 2004/05