

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Safer Sips Responds to Alleged Drink Spiking Incident Reported in Melbourne Media**

Melbourne, Australia — Safer Sips is deeply concerned by recent media reports regarding the alleged drink spiking incident involving a Melbourne socialite at a venue in Mt Buller.

While the matter is now before the courts and allegations remain unproven, the coverage has once again highlighted a serious and ongoing issue affecting Australians across nightlife, hospitality, festivals, private events, and social settings.

Drink spiking is not rare. It is not isolated. And it is not limited to any one demographic, venue type, or postcode.

At Safer Sips, we believe everyone deserves to feel safe when socialising. Incidents like this reinforce the urgent need for greater public awareness, practical prevention tools, venue accountability, and open conversations around drink safety.

“Every time a story like this makes headlines, it reminds people that drink spiking can happen in any environment — even among highly visible or affluent social circles,” said Gary Woodhead, Director of Safer Sips. “Our focus remains on education, prevention, and empowering people with practical ways to protect themselves and each other.”

Safer Sips is the exclusive Australian distributor of CYD drink spike test strips, which have been independently tested and proven to detect several of the most commonly used drink spiking substances, including amphetamines. The strips are designed to provide a fast, discreet, and accessible safety tool for consumers in social settings.

“With reports alleging amphetamine spiking in this case, it’s important people know that practical prevention tools do exist,” Woodhead said. “Awareness is critical, but so is access to technology that can help people make safer decisions in real time.”

Safer Sips encourages Australians to:

- Never leave drinks unattended
- Watch drinks being prepared where possible
- Stay aware of sudden or unusual symptoms
- Look out for friends and intervene when something feels wrong
- Use preventative safety tools where possible
- Report suspected drink spiking incidents to venue staff and police immediately

The organisation is also calling for stronger collaboration between venues, event organisers, universities, hospitality groups, and policymakers to improve prevention strategies and public education around drink spiking.

Importantly, Safer Sips reminds the public that victims of suspected drink spiking are never to blame.

“Too often, people dismiss drink spiking as something sensational or unlikely,” Woodhead said. “But behind every headline is a person whose safety, trust, and well-being may have been profoundly impacted.”

Safer Sips will continue working to raise awareness, advocate for safer nightlife environments, and provide accessible safety solutions designed to help people feel more confident and protected when socialising.

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