



19 March 2009

FOSTER'S COMMITS RTD REFUND TO ALCOHOL AND HEALTH INITIATIVES

Following Federal Parliament's RTD excise decision, Foster's Group Ltd (Foster's) intends to apply its refund to direct support for responsible drinking, alcohol education (and assistance) and health awareness programs.

A special purpose fund will be established to support community-based organisations and health and awareness programs such as: *DrinkWise*, Australia's leading organisation working toward a more responsible drinking culture in Australia; *Rethinking Drinking*, the leading national schools-based alcohol education program; Foster's *Enjoy Responsibly* education and awareness initiatives; and other community-based partnerships. The refund is expected to be approximately \$20 million.

"As this money was raised to reduce alcohol-related harm, we firmly believe that funding previously earmarked for government programs must go directly to community assistance and education", Foster's Chief Executive Officer, Ian Johnston said. "As a company, and as a broader community, we need to increase our efforts toward addressing the harmful aspects of our drinking culture."

"We have consistently maintained that there are no 'bad drinks' only harmful drinking behaviours" Ian said. "However, we recognise the community concern over youth and high-risk drinking and took the voluntary step this time last year to cease production of higher alcohol and added energy RTDs - those products we believed were particularly vulnerable to misuse."

Foster's will continue to include the 'Enjoy Responsibly' messages and standard drink logos on all products.

Further information:

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