

The Volatile Substances Legislation

The Drugs Poisons and Controlled Substances (Volatile Substances) Act 2003 is legislation that has been created to assist police to intervene to support young people by preventing the self-infliction of harm through the use of volatile substances. The Drugs Poisons and Controlled Substances (Volatile Substances) (Extension of Provisions) Act 2006 Act has extended these powers to June 2008.

What does the law say?

The legislation gives police limited civil powers to intervene to protect the health and welfare of young people who are actively chroming. This Act does not make chroming illegal, but provides for a proactive health response to these young people.

Police can apprehend young people under the age of 18, search them, remove any volatile substances or items used to inhale, and connect young people with a responsible adult, such as parent, care worker or alcohol and drug service. They can also apprehend older people if they have reason to suspect that they are supplying solvents to people under 18 years of age.

How can I use this law?

If you are concerned about young people who are chroming (signs include substance affected behaviour, paint on skin or clothes), ring 000. Describe the state the young people appear to be in and your location. Depending on the circumstances, Police and/or Ambulance will be sent to assist.

Contacts for further information

- For copies of the Retailer's Kit:
(03) 9096 5821, (03) 9096 2106 or (03) 9096 5007 or email: dp&s@dhs.vic.gov.au
- Website with Retailer's Kit information: www.health.vic.gov.au/drugs/solvents
- For further information and advice about preventing crime and improving safety in your store ring your local police station and ask for the Crime Prevention Officer.

Responsible sale
of solvents

