a truly remarkable Australian

Taking issue

Your editorial, published in today's Canberra Times, mentions the "attack" the AHA and ClubsACT made against the recent ACT Police underage drinking campaign. We believe that this is not an accurate representation of the situation.

The AHA and Clubs ACT oppose measures designed to curb underage drinking and excessive consumption of alcohol. We do this on a view that our respective industries benefit from a more responsible consumption of alcohol.

This assumption is incorrect and insulting. Firstly, The Canberra Times should have printed the part of our press release that clearly stated that both organisations support the use of clever and effective advertising to curb excessive alcohol consumption.

Secondly, AHA and ClubsACT members do not condone or support under-age or excessive drinking.

These activities are illegal and as the Chief Police Officer stated, this type of drinking involves young people "pre-loading" — using alcohol purchased from off-licences and consumed away from highly regulated AHA and ClubsACT venues.

Unfortunately, we live in a world where the way the media reports what is said is entirely controlled by the media itself — including editorial comments on your own stories.

Makes it very easy to pass comment on others, doesn't it?

Jeff House, CEO - ClubsACT

Needles in jail

The ACT Government's consideration of ensuring effective supervision and management of needle exchange in the ACT prison is based on a commonly used evidence-based approach to addressing the spread of blood-borne viruses (BBVs) in the broader community. Needle exchange is an important part of a comprehensive strategy to reduce the spread of BBVs both within the prison and among the general public.

Most prisoners spend less than a year in jail and it seems the CPSU's continuing opposition to expressed in Thursday's paper (Letters, March 15) is based more on prejudice and ignorance than fact.

Michael Moore, CEO - Public Health Association of Australia; David Templeman, CEO - Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Australia; Stuart Lovelady, President - Hepatitis Australia.