Scenario 2 - At the bar
Racial harassment and alcohol

Text version of animated scenario...

A group of students have gathered at the uni bar to watch a match being televised on the large screen. They have been warming up for some time and have drunk a lot of alcohol. Gathered around the screen they are ecstatic that their team is performing well.

A small group of students, new to the university, sit nearby in quiet conversation, not particularly interested in the match being played out. The bar usually buzzes with students having a good time but tonight the game is bringing some extra excitement to the place.

The noise pauses as the onscreen commentator describes the action, “Another bustling run by Hindmarsh – he flicks it back to Hodges he’s been backing up all day – Lockyer on the hunt for the ball again – weaves, a little chip in the in-goal area. Lookout – here comes Mason he’s steaming through he’ll get to the ball first – It’s a try! It’s another try to Australia! Teamwork coming to the fore once more as the score line keeps heading skyward…”

The pub crowd raise their chant in celebration, “Aussie, aussie aussie!”

Jacko is full of joy and is looking to spread his happiness around. “That calls for another beer.” He turns to one of the new students nearby, “Hey mate - you wanna beer?”

His offer is declined as the students don’t want to get into heavy drinking.

Not one to have his generosity refused, Jacko tries again, “C’mon guys - have a beer…” He rips open a can of beer and offers it to the table.

Once again the students decline his offer so Jacko turns back to his friends. Karly thinks that Jacko’s offer was pretty generous and considers the refusal downright rude.

“Bunch of wankers.” she says.

Jacko is not happy about his generosity being knocked back so he decides to have a bit of fun.

“Hey - watch this guys…”, he whispers as he scrunches a can and launches it across the room.

The closest student is taken by surprise as the can whizzes past his head. He is upset at being the target of Jacko’s drunken fun.

“Hey - that almost hit my head!”, he complains.

Seeing that he is upset, his friend at the table asks, “Are you ok?”

“Come on - Let’s go,” is the reply as they get to their feet and start to leave. Jacko doesn’t want to have anyone around who can’t enjoy his company.
“Mate, if you’re not gunna join in go back to where you came from!”

He staggers over to his friends who are laughing at the incident. Soon they are back watching the action on screen and having another drink.
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Reflection and feedback

Does the venue make a difference?

1. This is at a University organised event.

When alcohol is served at a University organised function there is a responsibility on the organisers to manage the amount of alcohol consumed and the behaviour of the group.

2. Students are at a local bar in town.

The students who are not drinking alcohol have a right to enjoy a drink without being harassed. Discrimination and harassment is potentially unlawful regardless of the location. They might want to report the offensive behaviour to the manager or security staff.

How might this scenario develop or change direction? What if...

3. The situation becomes physically violent.

Physical assault is criminal behaviour and should be reported immediately to security and or the police.

4. The offended students walk away.

Walking away from a situation is one way to end a confrontation but it may not stop the behaviour from being repeated. The offended students should also consider reporting the behaviour.

5. The drunken group apologise and pick up the can.

An apology can be a very powerful way of calming a situation. However, it should not be used to excuse inappropriate behaviour.