

MEASURES TO REDUCE ALCOHOL AND DRUG-RELATED VIOLENCE

Organisation: Casula Community Group for Responsible Planning Inc.
Name: Name Suppressed
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Partially Confidential

Casula Community Group for Responsible Planning Inc.

Submission to:

NSW Legislative Assembly Committee on Law and Safety *Inquiry into measures to reduce alcohol and drug-related violence*

This document outlines the key issues that are proposed for Casula Community Group for Responsible Planning Inc. submission to the NSW Legislative Assembly Committee on Law and Safety *Inquiry into measures to reduce alcohol and drug-related violence*.

The information below is provided under each of the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry.

1 & 2. Trends in alcohol and drug-related violence in licensed venues and general street areas and the impact of recent measures to reduce violence on Police, the Courts, hospitals, and the liquor industry

The need for an independent evaluation

- It is essential that an independent and transparent evaluation framework be established in consultation with communities, doctors and health personell, and university representatives to ensure data collection is reliable.
- The evaluation study should take into account the number of lives saved through comparison and investigation.
- Evaluation of the impact the measures announced in January 2014 should not be considered as some of the measures are yet to be implemented. These measures should be considered in a further 12 months.
- A range of factors need to be considered in the evaluation including violence inside and outside licensed premises, within the Sydney City precinct, in across country town own in NSW, and, trends in all crimes.

3. Possible further measures to reduce alcohol and drug-related violence

- Some measures announced in January are yet to be implemented. These include the:
 - The implementation of Control Purchase Operations; and
 - The development and roll out of a social marketing campaign.
- It is important that these measures are implemented as a priority.
- Along with implementing the CPOs and the social marketing campaign, the NSW Government can continue to strengthen their commitment to reducing and preventing alcohol harms.
- *Funding a NSW position of Community Defender of Alcohol and Gaming Related Harms*
 - Assist local communities at their point of need to navigate the complex systems related to the well resources and financial alcohol industry. This includes OLGA and ILGA, local councils, police and GIPA. Legislation is unknown by the average person who does not have the domain specific knowledge to navigate the system. The alcohol industry have an unfair advantage and dismiss communities that are the most effected.
 - A Community Defenders Office that has already been successfully piloted through the ACAP project already demonstrated the positive impact of having the immediate assistance of a knowledgeable lawyer who has the alcohol related knowledge and skills to lead communities to participate and engage in licensing matters with confidence.

4. Any other related matters.

- The inquiry needs to meaningfully address two key factors contributing to dangerous levels of intoxication being the primarily precursor to alcohol fuelled violence and related harms:-
- Substantial preloading due in part to the ready availability of dirt cheap grog (in some cases cheaper than bottled water) out liquor outlet density
- Failed RSA and associated lack of effective deterrence measures against owners of premises. BOCSAR survey found that over 90% of young patrons of Sydney licensed premises admitted to showing at 3 recognised signs of intoxication and still being served.

Yours Sincerley,

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For Casula Community Group for responsible Planning *Inc*

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