MEASURES TO REDUCE ALCOHOL AND DRUG-RELATED VIOLENCE

Organisation: Mental Health Association NSW
Name: Mr Murray Mayes
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The Committee Manager
Committee on Law and Safety
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000
Fax: (02) 9230 3052

To the Members of the Law and Safety Committee,

RE: Inquiry into Measures to Reduce Alcohol and Drug-Related Violence

It has come to the attention of the Mental Health Association NSW (MHA) that the due date for submission to this Inquiry into Measures to Reduce Alcohol and Drug-Related Violence (August 15th 2014) has been set three weeks before the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) is due to release its 2nd Quarter 2014 Recorded Crime Statistics Report (September 4th 2014).

Arguably, the data contained in the upcoming report will be the most relevant objective indicator of the “effectiveness of the recent measures to reduce alcohol and drug related violence in the Sydney Central Business District” (Terms of Reference), which this inquiry purports as its primary purpose.

In the interest of utilising the information in this major, unreleased data source, MHA recommends that:

(a) The Inquiry extend its deadline for submissions beyond the release date of the BOCSAR data; or
(b) The Inquiry request a second round of submissions beyond the release date of the BOCSAR data; and/or
(c) The NSW Government give an undertaking to further review the efficacy of the recent measures to reduce alcohol and drug related violence in the Sydney CBD at a time in which statistically significant data is available.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Priestley
CEO, Mental Health Association NSW