

**Submission
No 29**

MEASURES TO REDUCE ALCOHOL AND DRUG- RELATED VIOLENCE

Organisation: Last Drinks in Bryon
Name: Ms Vicki Henricks
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The Committee Manager
Committee on Law and Safety
Parliament House
Macquarie St
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Committee Manager

SUBMISSION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LAW AND SAFETY *INQUIRY INTO MEASURES TO REDUCE ALCOHOL AND DRUG-RELATED HARMS*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the New South Wales (NSW) Legislative Assembly *Inquiry into measures to reduce alcohol and drug related harms*.

I would like to offer my support to the NSW ACT Alcohol Policy Alliance (NAAPA) submission to this Inquiry. NAAPA is a coalition of 44 organisations working to reduce alcohol-related harms by ensuring that evidence-based solutions inform alcohol policy discussions in NSW and the ACT.

Alcohol harms in NSW are significant, with 1,837 alcohol-attributable deaths,ⁱ 51,981 alcohol-related hospitalisationsⁱⁱ and over 25,000 incidentsⁱⁱⁱ of alcohol-related violence each year. In January this year the NSW Government announced a range of measures to prevent alcohol-related violence. These measures included a 10pm close for all off-licence premises and 3am last drinks for licenses within the Sydney CBD precinct. NAAPA welcomed these measures as a significant step in preventing alcohol harms.

I commend the Law and Safety Committee for focusing on preventing alcohol harms. It is important that the Committee on Law and Safety acknowledge that the measures being examined have been in effect for less than six months, which is not adequate time to assess their effectiveness. This Inquiry provides an opportunity to develop a robust evaluation framework for these measures, to determine the progress of the introduction of these measures and to examine other evidence-based policies that can be introduced to reduce alcohol-related harms.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to raise these important issues with you. I encourage you to review the comprehensive submission being made by NAAPA to gain further information about the issues raised above.

Yours sincerely

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ⁱ Gao, C., Ogeil, R., & Lloyd, B. (2014). *Alcohol's burden of disease in Australia*. Canberra: FARE and VicHealth in collaboration with Turning Point.

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- ⁱⁱ Health Statistics New South Wales (2014). *Alcohol attributable hospitalisations by sex, NSW 1998-99 to 2012-13*. Sydney: NSW Government.
- ⁱⁱⁱ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (2014). *NSW Recorded Crime Statistics April 2004 to March 2014*. Sydney: NSW Government.