



Liquor and Gaming (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 - Submission 008

12 April 2013

Research Director
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

QNADA makes the following submission to the Inquiry into the Liquor and Gaming (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 (the Bill).

QNADA represents a dynamic and broad-reaching specialist network within the non-government alcohol and other drug (NGO AOD) sector across Queensland. We have 36 member organisations, representing the majority of NGO AOD providers.

QNADA members provide drug education and information, early intervention, outreach, detoxification, residential rehabilitation, psychosocial and medical treatment, relapse prevention, justice diversion, and social inclusion services. QNADA members have also participated in a number of Liquor Licencing Accords across the State and have provided harm reduction services at major events, such as Schoolies Week.

In the 2010 – 2011 period, individuals with alcohol dependence made up the largest single group seeking assistance from QNADA members at 38% (or around 3 000 individuals).

QNADA has significant concerns about the proposed amendments to the *Liquor Act 1992* (the Act) and contends that:

- in considering the amendments, the social and subsequent economic burden of alcohol-related misuse have not been appropriately weighed against the perceived value of reducing red tape to industry;
- consultation processes to inform the amendments have failed to include those with specialist knowledge regarding alcohol misuse; and
- the amendments are contrary to the intent of a number of recent public health programs which have sought to reduce the level of harm caused by alcohol in our communities.

In 2008, the Queensland Government committed under the *National Partnership Agreement for Preventative Health* to:

support all Australians in reducing their risk of chronic disease by embedding healthy behaviours in the settings of their pre-schools, schools, workplaces and communities, by instituting programs across smoking, nutrition, alcohol, and physical activity (SNAP) risk factors which mobilise the resources of the private, public and non-government sectors.

QNADA records its' strong support for the submission from the National Alliance for Action on Alcohol (NAAA) and in particular draws your attention to:

- the importance of recognising that alcohol is a potentially harmful product and special controls on its sale and supply exist to reflect this, such as the requirement to obtain a permit for the sale of liquor at fund raising events and where liquor is offered as a raffle prize;
- the potential for permit exemptions for hospitals to lead to increased costs to our health system;
- our strong support for the retention of the requirements to develop Risk-Assessed Management Plans (RAMPs) and Community Impact Statements as part of the licence application process; and
- the importance of retaining provisions that require applications be advertised to the local community for public objection.

QNADA recently provided a submission to the Office of Regulatory Policy review of Red Tape Reduction and Other Reform proposals for regulation of liquor and gaming and notes that the current Bill seeks to make additional amendments which were not canvassed in the recent public consultation process.

QNADA would welcome the opportunity to expand further on this submission by appearing before the Committee, particularly in light of the limited consultation conducted prior to the introduction of the Bill. I can be contacted on (07) 3023 5050 or at Rebecca.MacBean@qnada.org.au to arrange this and am able to provide further advice to your research team in support of our submission.

Yours sincerely



Rebecca MacBean
Executive Officer