

16 February 2017

To the Acting Research Director

via email: lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Thank you for providing Healthy Options Australia (HOA) with the opportunity to give feedback to the Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017.

HOA is the parent organisation of a group of service provision agencies namely Drug ARM Australasia, the Mental Health Association Qld and the Australian College of Community Services that deliver programs in Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia. HOA provides a range of interventions in the alcohol and other drug sector, the community mental health sector as well as the education and professional training sector.

HOA can trace its history back to the 1860s and has retained a proud history of service to this great state of Queensland. As an organisation, through our many staff members working on the front line, we deal directly with client who have or are experience issues relating to alcohol-fuelled violence either in the community or in their homes.

HOA has previously advocated through its subsidiary Drug ARM Australasia publicly for a reduction in the overall harm associated with alcohol use in this state. Drug ARM strongly supported the introduction of the *Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Act 2016* as part of the Queensland Coalition for Action on Alcohol of which both HOA and Drug ARM are members.

In relation to the initial legislation, HOA was pleased to see the State Government form their policy responses to reducing alcohol-fuelled violence based on the vast amount of literature available on this health and community safety issue. The specific legislation is based upon the evidence contained in literature and best practice processes in reducing the social costs of alcohol-fuelled violence for individuals, their families and importantly the broader community.



**Healthy Options
Australia**

Drug Awareness and Relief
Foundation (Aust) trading as
Healthy Options Australia

ABN: 56 385 096 184
healthyoptions.org.au
1300 800 859

Find us on:



Head Office

485 Lutwyche Road
Lutwyche QLD 4030
GPO Box 590
Brisbane QLD 4001
P: 07 3620 8800
F: 07 3112 6107

**Australian College of
Community Services**
ABN: 83 135 803 539
accs.edu.au

Drug ARM Australasia
ABN: 64 102 243 304
drugarm.com.au

Mental Health Association Qld
ABN: 62 140 293 269
mentalhealth.org.au



As an organisation, HOA was delighted to support the key elements of the legislation that included:

- Reducing available liquor service hours to 2am state-wide except in the Safe Night Precincts
- Changing the approvals to sell takeaway liquor after 10pm
- Banning the sale or supply of rapid intoxication drinks after midnight.

In relation to the current legislation under consideration of the Parliament (*Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017*) the timeline provided for feedback does not permit a detailed one on all the issues contained in the legislation. As an organisation, HOA records its appreciation for the opportunity to be included in the consultation on this important matter of health and community safety.

HOA notes that some of the key elements contained in this bill include:

- Introduction of ID scanners into venues in the Safe Night Precincts by 1 July 2017
- Reducing the number of one-off extended trading hour permits that licensees in Safe Night precincts can apply for in one year from 12 to 6 – outside the Safe Night precincts late-night venues can still apply for up to 12 permits as well as tightening the criteria for these permits to be issued
- Removal of the lock out requirements in the Safe Night Precinct's from 1 February 2017
- In addition to the above the government is also providing additional resources to assist the Safe Night Precincts to successfully reduce alcohol-fuelled violence

HOA continues to support the Queensland Government's efforts to reduce alcohol-fuelled violence contained in the initial legislation in 2015.

Specific elements included in the amendment:

1. Lock-outs

HOA acknowledges that the single most effective measure in the legislation to curb alcohol-fuelled violence is the reduction in available liquor service hours. Although the evidence in relation to lock-outs are not as strong as reducing the available liquor service hours however HOA notes that the withdrawal of this element of the legislation is premature and a real opportunity to prove the effectiveness of this strategy is now lost to Queensland.

2. ID Scanners

HOA welcomes the introduction of mandatory ID scanning systems in venues that regularly trade beyond midnight.

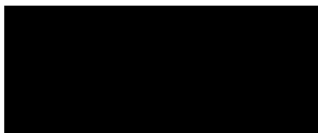
3. Permits

HOA welcomes the tightening up of the permit system for late-night venues. This strategy of limiting the number of permits available to late-night venues will positively impact on the overall goal of the legislation. This strategy will increase the likelihood of success of the legislation.

On behalf of HOA we thank you for providing the opportunity to make a formal submission on this important piece of legislation for Queenslanders. HOA also acknowledges the rigorous evaluation processes the Queensland Government has incorporated into this legislation that will provide the community with sound outcomes of what strategies are successful in reducing alcohol-fuelled violence.

If you require further information or assistance in this matter, please contact Ms Alexandra Davis, Communications and Relationships Manager, on 07 3620 8806.

Yours sincerely



Dr Dennis Young
Group Executive Director
Healthy Options Australia

