

17 February 2017

Acting Research Director
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
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Thank you for providing AMA Queensland with the opportunity to give feedback to the *Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017*.

AMA Queensland is the state's peak medical advocacy group, representing over 6000 medical practitioners across Queensland and throughout all levels of the health system. We value and believe in the work doctors do, and have previously advocated publicly on issues of public health, including the *Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Bill 2015* as part of the Queensland Coalition for Action on Alcohol, of which we are a member.

Due to the extremely short timeframes for providing a submission to this bill, AMA Queensland's submission will be limited. Although we appreciate the opportunity to be consulted on this legislation, and the reasons for the truncated consultation process, we do wish to note that the short time frame to provide a submission may reduce the quality of the feedback the committee will receive. Given the importance of these laws to ensuring community health and safety, it is unfortunate that a longer consultation process was unable to be accommodated.

We therefore wish to note for the record that our support for certain elements of the bill at this time should be viewed with the stipulation that the short timeframes have not allowed us to fully consider the legislation and all its potential ramifications.

AMA Queensland supported the Government's efforts to curb alcohol-fuelled violence with its initial legislation in 2015. Although we acknowledge the evidence shows the lockouts were the least essential element of the legislation, we believe it was premature to repeal the lockouts before they were given a chance to prove their effectiveness in the Queensland context. We would be pleased to receive advice from the Government on whether they would consider reintroducing them at a later stage if it is determined that more action on alcohol fuelled violence is needed.

However, we welcome the Queensland Government's decision to retain the strongest elements of its licensing law reform. Introducing a mandatory ID scanning system in venues which regularly trade beyond midnight will make a big difference and tightening up the temporary late-night extended hours permits will help ensure that the laws are given their strongest chance to succeed.

Finally, we would like the Government to report publicly and transparently on the impact of the legislation, at a minimum of one year following the ascent of the bill, to help inform stakeholders and the community on the effectiveness of the laws and to build an evidence base going forward.

Thank you again for providing us with the opportunity to provide the committee with a submission on this issue. If you require further information or assistance in this matter, please contact Mr Leif Bremermann, Senior Policy Advisor on 3872 2222.

Yours sincerely



Dr Chris Zappala
President
Australian Medical Association Queensland