



Foundation for Alcohol  
Research & Education

Level 1,  
40 Thesiger Court  
Deakin ACT 2600

PO Box 19  
Deakin West ACT 2600

T 02 6122 8600  
F 02 6232 4400

[www.fare.org.au](http://www.fare.org.au)

ABN 91 096 854 385

23 December 2015

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

Dear Sir or Madam

**SUBMISSION TO THE TACKLING ALCOHOL-FUELLED VIOLENCE LEGISLATION (AMENDMENT BILL) 2015**

The Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the *Tackling Alcohol Fuelled-violence Legislation (Amendment Bill) 2015*. FARE congratulates the Government for introducing this promised legislation and supports the submission made by the Queensland Coalition for Action on Alcohol (QCAA).

The harms from alcohol in Queensland are significant and therefore it is appropriate that this legislation containing some of the most effective measures to reduce these harms is passed by the Parliament. Legislating measures which the evidence shows will be effective in reducing harm are critical in achieving the aim of reducing alcohol-fuelled violence in Queensland.

The Amendment Bill's state-wide measures to reduced trading hours, *3a.m. safe night precincts*, one way doors and a ban on the sale of high risk drinks and behaviours after midnight will see Queensland become leaders in alcohol control policy both nationally and internationally.

FARE strongly supports the introduction of a 2am last drinks policy and the cessation of packaged liquor sales at 10pm. The Government would be aware of the need for consistency across the state when introducing these measures since alcohol-related violence occurs throughout Queensland and the harms from alcohol extend beyond just alcohol-related violence.

FARE is very concerned that packaged liquor outlets, which are currently approved to trade past 10pm, may be able to continue do so, once the legislation is passed. Such an eventuality will seriously compromise the integrity of this measure and undermines the work being undertaken by the Government to reduce family violence in Queensland.

Figures for Queensland are not available, however where data is collected, alcohol has been shown to be involved in up to 65 per cent of family violence cases in Australia.<sup>1</sup> In light of the evidence of the association between alcohol and family violence and indeed family violence and take-away sales,<sup>2</sup> the government should ensure that the 10pm close for packaged liquor outlets applies to all venues in Queensland from 1 July 2016, not just new applications, and that the 10pm restriction applies to the cease of service for over the bar sales.

In addition to supporting the Amendment Bill, FARE requests that the Committee recommend the Bill be amended to include a moratorium on approvals for 'extended trading permits' until the Government develops a framework to assess and manage applications for extended trading hours (trading after midnight). This is important because an increase in availability of alcohol is associated with an increase in harms, particularly in relation to the density of liquor outlets and the hours in which they trade.<sup>3</sup>

Late night trading hours have been shown to be the hours in which the community is at highest risk of alcohol-related violence.<sup>4</sup> A moratorium is important because Queensland has already seen a considerable increase in the number of premises trading late since the moratorium was lifted by the Newman Government in September 2014, with more than 120 approvals given in the 12 months to September 2015.<sup>5</sup> Until a late night trading policy is clearly enunciated there will continue to be a real possibility that Queensland will see an overall expansion of the total number of late night trading hours.

Finally, many in the alcohol industry in Queensland are opposed measures such as earlier closing and one-way door policies. This is unsurprising since their priority is to maximize profits using a business model that is structured around selling lots of alcohol. FARE's priority is to stop the harm cause by alcohol. FARE strongly argues that the Parliament make its decisions based on the evidence of the most effective strategies to reduce alcohol harm and in the interests of all Queenslanders, not just a small and vocal vested interest. Unsubstantiated claims should be viewed with caution and considered in the context in which they are provided.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide comment on the *Tackling Alcohol Fuelled-violence Legislation (Amendment Bill) 2015*. FARE supports the measures in the Amendment Bill, with the above modifications, and would be pleased to give direct evidence to the Committee.

Yours sincerely



MICHAEL THORN  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

---

<sup>1</sup> Foundation for Alcohol Research and education (2015) *National framework for action to prevent alcohol-related family violence* FARE: Canberra, June 2015

<sup>2</sup> Livingston M (2011) A longitudinal analysis of alcohol outlet density and domestic violence *Addiction*, 106, 919-925

<sup>3</sup> Babor, T., Catalano, R., Casswell, S., Edwards, G., Giesbrecht, N., Graham, K., Grube., Hill, L., Holder, H., Homel. H., Livingston, M., Osterberg, E., Rehm, J., Room, R & Rossow, I. (2010). *Alcohol: No ordinary commodity. research and public policy second edition*. Oxford University Press

<sup>4</sup> Briscoe, S. & Donnelly, N (2001) Temporal and regional aspects of alcohol-related violence and disorder *Alcohol Studies Bulletin*

<sup>5</sup> Personal communication, September 2015