



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

By email to [lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

07 January 2015

Dear Research Director.

**Submission on the Queensland Tackling Alcohol-fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Bill 2015**

The Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD) expresses its thanks to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for providing an opportunity to respond to the review of liquor licensing and related legislation in Queensland. We are aware that the deadline for submissions was 23 December 2015, but hope that you will be able to accept this late submission.

APSAD is Australia's leading multidisciplinary organisation for professionals involved in the drug and alcohol field.

APSAD is dedicated to promoting improved standards in clinical practice for medical practitioners and other health professionals who deal with alcohol and other drug-related problems in the course of their work. It also provides a network of drug and alcohol professionals in Australia, New Zealand and the Asia Pacific. The Society is also involved in promoting population health, particularly as it relates to preventive interventions concerning alcohol, tobacco, pharmaceutical products and illicit drugs.

Through its internationally recognised scientific journal, the *Drug and Alcohol Review*, and its annual Scientific Conference, APSAD provides a forum for the latest research on the nature, prevention and treatment of physical, psychological and social problems related to the use of psychoactive substances.

APSAD currently has over 380 members across Australia and around the world. The Society has particularly strong links with New Zealand and the Asia Pacific region.

Our members represent a wide range of professional disciplines including; educators, counsellors, general practitioners, nurses, physicians, psychologists, medical researchers, public health experts, pharmacists, policy advisors, psychiatrists, social/behavioural researchers and administrators.

**Our responses to the Tackling Alcohol-fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 and Explanatory Notes are as follows:**

1. We commend the Committee and the Government on undertaking such a comprehensive review. Its goal of reducing alcohol-fuelled violence in Queensland is commendable, and is one that accords closely with the goals of APSAD.

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2. It is clear that the Committee has considered both the positive aspects of the liquor and hospitality industries and the significant body of research evidence, and public opinion, that leads to the conclusion that liquor licensing legislation and its implementation needs to be somewhat tighter than it has been in the past.
3. We fully support the proposal to introduce the 2 am last drinks approach throughout the State, along with the provisions for 1 am lockouts and 3 am last drinks in designated precincts.
4. Most of the other provisions of the Bill are also well conceived and, if legislated and enforced effectively are likely to result in a lower incidence of alcohol-fuelled violence throughout the State.
5. APSAD fully supports the proposal to limit takeaway liquor sales to the 10 am to 10 pm period. It is becoming increasingly clear that packaged liquor is significantly involved in pre-drinking and may increase the risk of alcohol-fuelled violence, highlighting the importance of this restriction.
6. However, APSAD is concerned about, and requests reconsideration of, the provision that licensees currently able to sell packaged liquor past 10 pm should continue to do so. Our submission is that the 10 pm limit on selling these products should apply to all off-licences, not simply to new ones. The importance of this is highlighted by the fact that 43% of current off-licenses in the State currently permit sales past 10 pm.

Thank you again for providing an opportunity to comment on the Amendment Bill.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lynda Berends'.

Dr Lynda Berends  
President

