



12 January 2021

Chair
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Chair

RE: Criminal Code (Consent and Mistake of Fact) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our coalition's views on the *Criminal Code (Consent and Mistake of Fact) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020*.

The Queensland Coalition for Action on Alcohol (QCAA) commends the Government's continued commitment to reduce alcohol-related violence and strongly supports the Government's decision to retain the 'last drinks laws' which have seen positive benefits for Queenslanders.

QCAA supports the additional legislative amendments proposed which provide greater rigour around ID scanning and the banning regime; ensure the ongoing effectiveness of safe night precincts; and increase transparency around liquor and gaming machine decisions.

We also take this opportunity to revisit Recommendation 18 in the final evaluation report from the Queensland Alcohol-related violence and Night-Time Economy Monitoring Project to Introduce a Minimum Unit Price on alcohol across Queensland now that the National Alcohol Strategy has been released and the Ministerial Drug and Alcohol Council dissolved.

QCAA strongly supports this recommendation and acknowledges that increasing the price of alcohol, either through taxation or minimum unit price, is the most evidence-based measure to reduce alcohol consumption.

Pricing controls, such as minimum unit pricing (MUP), have been identified by the World Health Organisation as some of the most effective measures to reduce harm caused by alcohol. Low cost alcohol disproportionately harms Australia's heaviest drinkers and pre-loading young people, who are more likely to seek out cheaper alcohol than low or moderate drinkers.ⁱ MUP effectively reduces harms among the heaviest consumers, while limiting ordinary drinkers who are consuming at a moderate or low levelⁱⁱⁱⁱ.

MUP has been successfully introduced internationally with resultant reductions in alcohol related harms in countries including Scotland, Canada, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine^{iv}. Locally, the Northern Territory introduced MUP in October 2018 and reports assessing the impact have found reductions in alcohol-related road crashes causing injury or fatality, assaults, ambulance attendances, emergency department presentations and episodes of protective

custody^{vi}. This has all been achieved while having no significant impact on tourism or the number of liquor licences in the NT^{vii}.

QCAA further notes that the modest implementation costs mean that this policy is one of the most efficient and cost-effective options to reduce alcohol related harms at a state level as well as a national level.

QCAA commends the Government's commitment to investigating this policy option further and would welcome the opportunity to support and contribute to the introduction of a minimum unit price at both a state and national level.

Thank you again for the opportunity to respond. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this submission with your further.

Yours sincerely



**Emeritus Professor Jake Najman
Chair**



**Dr Dennis Young AM
Hon Secretary**

ⁱ Holmes, J., Meng, Y., Meier, P. S., Brennan, A., Angus, C., Campbell-Burton, A., ... & Purshouse, R. C. (2014). Effects of minimum unit pricing for alcohol on different income and socioeconomic groups: a modelling study. *The Lancet*, 383(9929), 1655-1664.

ⁱⁱ World Health Organization. Global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol. Italy; 2010.

ⁱⁱⁱ World Health Organization Regional Office from Europe. European status report on alcohol and health 2014: pricing policies. 2014.

^{iv} Stockwell T, Auld MC, Zhao J, Martin G. Does minimum pricing reduce alcohol consumption? The experience of a Canadian province. *Addiction*. 2012;107(5):912-20.

^v Stockwell T, Zhao J, Martin G, Macdonald S, Vallance K, Treno A, et al. Minimum alcohol prices and outlet densities in British Columbia, Canada: estimated impacts on alcohol-attributable hospital admissions. *American journal of public health*. 2013;103(11):2014-20.

^{vi} Coomber K, Miller P, Taylor N, Livingston M, Smith J, Buykx P, et al. Investigating the introduction of the alcohol minimum unit price in the Northern Territory: Final report. Geelong: Deakin University; 2020.

^{vii} Coomber K, Miller P, Taylor N, Livingston M, Smith J, Buykx P, et al. Investigating the introduction of the alcohol minimum unit price in the Northern Territory: Final report. Geelong: Deakin University; 2020.