

26 July 2017

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Liquor & Gaming NSW
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Re: Submission to Liquor & Gaming NSW in relation to Community Impact Statement Requirements

Thank you for the opportunity to lodge a submission regarding Community Impact Statements.

The key points we would like to be considered are as follows:

- Alcohol is and will continue to be the biggest drug problem facing Australia.
- Alcohol impacts a large number of people both directly and indirectly and costs society large sums of money in relation to health services and inefficiencies.
- Alcohol is consumed by many adults and illegally by teenagers. It is a drug that has and will continue to impact multiple generations of people simultaneously. In many circles of society it is revered as a rite of passage and a symbol of social acceptance.
- Alcohol's impacts on society far outweighs those of illicit drug use.
- The practice of selling alcohol must be seen as a privilege. It must be carefully regulated, it must be thoroughly assessed and it must provide potentially affected stakeholders the opportunity to inform decision makers of the range of potential impacts.
- Community Impact Statements need to rigorously assess potential impacts of alcohol sales objectively, independently and using accepted professionally recognised methodologies.
- Potentially impacted stakeholders need to be widely informed of Community Impact Statements through letterbox notifications to owners and occupants within 200 metres of a proposed alcohol supply centre. Notification should also be provided on major websites, signage on the subject property informing passersby of the process and major media advertisements.
- Stakeholders should be given 14 days to review and comment on applications for small premises and 28 days to review and comment on the remaining medium and larger premises.

Regards,

Julian Ardas and Margaret Harvie