

19th January 2018

Mr Jonathan Horton QC
The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority
PO Box 8325
PARRAMATTA WESTFIELD NSW 2150

Dear Mr Horton

SUBMISSION TO THE NEWCASTLE CBD LIQUOR LICENCE CONDITIONS REVIEW

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the *Newcastle CBD Liquor Licence Conditions Review*.

We would like to offer my support to the submission prepared by the NSW ACT Alcohol Policy Alliance (NAAPA). NAAPA is a coalition of 48 organisations working to reduce alcohol-related harms by ensuring that evidence-based solutions inform alcohol policy discussions in NSW and the ACT.

The Newcastle conditions are internationally recognised and have paved the way for evidence based policy. They have been thoroughly reviewed by researchers from Newcastle University, John Hunter Hospital and other Australian institutes showing a direct relationship between their implementation and the sustained and overwhelming reduction in night-time assaults. The implementation of these policies resulted in a 37 per cent reduction in night-time alcohol-related assaults and no displacement of harm to adjacent late-night districts.ⁱ Five years on, the positive effects were sustained with alcohol-related assaults down by 21 per cent per hour on average.ⁱⁱ

This scientific evidence is also supported by the latest data from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR). This data shows that since October 2007, there has been a reduction in the non-domestic assaults recorded by police in Newcastle and Newcastle West on Friday and Saturday night.ⁱⁱⁱ Over the ten year period there has been a 79 per cent reduction in non-domestic assaults in Newcastle and Newcastle West on Friday and Saturday night.

The local businesses have not suffered because of the Newcastle conditions. Data from Newcastle Police demonstrate that from March 2008 to July 2015, there has been a 140 per cent increase in on-premise liquor licenses in the Newcastle CBD. It has been continuously argued by some in the alcohol industry that the measures have resulted in business closures and have destroyed Newcastle's nightlife but this is clearly not the case. This is just another industry tactic to water down the measures and remove evidence-based policies.

There is clear community support from Newcastle residents. A survey Lower Hunter household members found that 77 per cent of community members supported the reduced trading hours conditions and 80 per cent of community members supported the lock-out conditions.^{iv}

There is also significant support among NSW adults for alcohol harm-minimisation policies:^v

- 80 per cent support a closing time for pubs, clubs and bars of no later than 3am
- 68 per cent support stopping the sale of alcohol 30 minutes before closing time
- 67 per cent support placing a limit of four drinks on the number of drinks a person can purchase at one time after 10pm

