

Department
of Industry

Newcastle Review <newcastle.review@ilga.nsw.gov.au>

Letter to Mr Horton,

Zsolt J. BaloghWed, Feb 7, 2018 at 3:54
PM

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To: "newcastle.review@ilga.nsw.gov.au"
<newcastle.review@ilga.nsw.gov.au>

Dear Mr Horton,

I am writing to you because I am very concerned about the possible abolishment of the "Newcastle Conditions", which are exemplary measures in our country to reduce alcohol related acute morbidity and mortality.

As a practicing trauma surgeon and the Director of Trauma Services in Newcastle and the Hunter New England Area, I see the effect of alcohol abuse every day and its consequences are devastating including loss of young lives and permanent disability with excessive burden on the person, families and on our entire society.

Probably these statements you can hear as common phrases from every angle of the society and you could be desensitised from frequently hearing it. Unlike many others I actually see these results in real time when the patients are dying and I am following them up during the rehabilitation to document the miserable outcomes.

Many other locations in our Country and overseas our local Newcastle example is regarded as a revolutionary commendable act, which is worthy to implement elsewhere.

As key health care provider in trauma surgery, I would be keen to discuss with you any potential decisions in this context before proposal and implementation.

I believe changing the current situation for more dangerous arrangement is irresponsible to our society with predictable detrimental effects.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Best Regards,

Zsolt Balogh

Zsolt J. Balogh, MD, PHD, FRACS

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