

INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE IMPACT OF LIQUOR LAW REFORMS

1 April 2016

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Independent Review of the Impact of Liquor Law Reforms in New South Wales (NSW).

I am an emergency physician and toxicologist working at Westmead Hospital in Sydney. I am writing to you because I see and treat first-hand the harms caused by alcohol in the emergency department. These patients are admitted under my care and though the liquor laws are not enforced in Western Sydney, I deal with the effects of alcohol on patients and staff on a daily basis.

Alcohol binges late into the night, causes altered perception and disinhibition. This fuels angry and violent behaviour that spills over to the hospital setting. I am not against responsible measured enjoyment of alcohol, but there is a point at which it becomes harmful to the drinker and those around them. Every day we see patients in our ED and admitted to the toxicology unit involved in alcohol-related injuries and motor vehicle accidents. Western Sydney would benefit from the same restrictions placed in Sydney CBD.

I urge you to recommend to the NSW Government that they continue these measures, and expand them to Western Sydney.

Yours sincerely,

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