

24 March 2016

To whom it may concern

**Independent review of the impact of liquor law reforms**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a response to the consultation on the *Independent review of the impact of liquor law reforms*. We welcome the Government's actions to address this important issue.

We understand that the annual risk-based licensing fees introduced in January 2014 are among the reform measures being reviewed in New South Wales. We would like to draw your attention to our research examining the implementation of risk-based licensing in the Australian Capital Territory.

In December 2010, the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) introduced risk-based licensing, a scheme which calculates and sets liquor licensing fees according to venue type, occupancy, and trading hours. In 2013, we conducted research investigating the impacts of risk-based licensing on alcohol-related offences in the ACT through the analysis of data from ACT Police Real-Time Offence Monitoring Information System (PROMIS).

We found that since the introduction of risk-based licensing, alcohol-related offences have declined substantially in the ACT. From May 2010 until December 2012, all offences declined in the ACT by 21% in absolute terms and alcohol-related offences specifically relevant to risk-based licensing declined by 25%. In the second year of risk-based licensing, from 2011 to 2012, alcohol-related offences declined by a larger magnitude than offences not involving alcohol. Specifically, the proportion of all offences involving alcohol decreased by 1.3% from 2011 to 2012, and those specifically relevant to risk-based licensing decreased by 0.6%. However the proportion of offences not involving alcohol increased by 1.3% during this time.

These positive findings were echoed in what we heard in interviews with key stakeholders, namely police, liquor licensees and liquor licensing regulators. Almost all interviewed felt that risk-based licensing had benefitted the ACT, particularly in providing more police resources for prevention of alcohol-related offences. Many reported that since its introduction there were a greater number of more visible police who had earlier intelligence about alcohol-related violence and felt that police, licensees and regulators were working together more effectively in preventing alcohol-related harm. Furthermore, these positive results were achieved without any detrimental impacts on the liquor licensing market as at the time of our study, there was no evidence that the number of liquor licenses in the ACT has significantly changed since risk-based licensing's introduction.

As reference material, our research can be downloaded from:

<http://www.fare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/research/Risk-based-licensing-and-alcohol-related-offences-in-the-ACT-Final.pdf>

Yours Sincerely



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