



The Royal Australasian  
College of Physicians

From the President

29 March 2016

Senator Glenn Lazarus  
Chair  
Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Via Email: [alcohol.violence.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:alcohol.violence.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Senator Lazarus

**RACP submission to inquiry into the need for a nationally-consistent approach to alcohol-fuelled violence**

I write on behalf of The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) to provide the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee (the Committee) inquiry into the 'need for a nationally-consistent approach to alcohol-fuelled violence' with a copy of the RACP's Alcohol Policy, jointly developed with The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) and published in March 2016.

The RACP believes that in particular, Chapter 4 of this Policy may be of use to the Committee in responding to the inquiry's term of reference a) ii which relates to "*liquor licensing, including the effectiveness of lockout laws and alcohol service laws*".

The cost of alcohol-related harms to individuals and society are undeniable and substantial. Alcohol is a causal factor in over 200 disease and injury conditions, the third largest risk for burden of disease and the eighth largest risk for deaths worldwide.

The RACP holds that key to reducing alcohol-related harms in Australian society are measures which limit the availability of alcohol, including limitations on the trading hours of licensed venues and bottle shops, and restrictions on outlet density. The RACP calls on the federal government to support local, state and territory governments in implementing liquor licensing and alcohol supply measures which target the harms of alcohol.

It is imperative that all measures to reduce the harms of alcohol be enabled via a comprehensive national strategy which employs a range of measures to bring about a shift in the Australian drinking culture and a reduction in alcohol-related harms. The

RACP is calling on the Australian government to show leadership on this issue and urgently adopt and implement the recommendations of our Alcohol policy in full.

I trust the Policy will be useful in the Committee's deliberations. Should you require any further information, please contact RACP Advocacy Officer Clare Hodgson

Yours sincerely

Laureate Professor Nicholas J Talley

Enc: RACP/RANZCP Alcohol Policy 2016