



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

18 August 2010

Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

To Whom it May Concern

Re: Senate Community Affairs Committee Inquiry: Responsible Takeaway Alcohol Hours Bill 2010

The RACP is pleased to provide comment to the Senate Inquiry on the Responsible Takeaway Alcohol Hours Bill 2010. It is understood that the restriction on selling takeaway alcoholic beverages will be in place during the period from midnight to 7am on any day.

The College would like to state its support for the Bill and the provisions therein. Restricting the hours during which alcoholic beverages can be sold for take away is a positive step in the reduction of availability of alcohol, which is strongly linked to unsafe levels of consumption.

It has been well established that licensed premises are associated with a significant amount of alcohol-related harm in Australia. Research conducted in Australia (NSW) estimated that 60 per cent of alcohol-related assaults occurred in or near licensed premises¹. Furthermore, continued service of alcohol to intoxicated patrons is an important factor in the link between acute alcohol-related harm and licensed premises. Both survey and observational research has shown that excessive consumption of alcohol by intoxicated patrons is predictive of harmful outcomes. A large proportion of alcohol-related offences occur in or near venues with extended trading hours or in areas where there are numerous outlets.

We look forward to this Bill being enacted and these measures implemented as a step towards reducing alcohol-related harm in Australia.

Yours truly

Dr Jennifer Alexander
Chief Executive Officer

¹ Briscoe, S. and D. N, *Temporal and regional aspects of alcohol-related violence and disorder*. . 2001, NSW: National Drug Research Institute of Curtin University and NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research 2001: Sydney