

TASKFORCESUBMISSION: submission

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POSITION: Director

ORGANISATION: Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies

SUBMISSION1: NADAs priorities for Alcohol Policy are:

- Restricting both the physical and economic availability of alcohol.
- Regulating and limiting the way alcohol is advertised and marketed (including sponsorship of sporting events).
- Strategies that address violence in families and communities and are not limited to violence around liquor selling premises.
- Activities that have measured outcomes against mental health, homelessness and domestic violence.
- A proactive agenda to consult consumers, particularly families and young people.
- An active working relationships with the States to assist treatment agencies with increasing demand due to these activities.

Do you support a focus on these activities?

- The broad policy directions presented in the discussion paper are evidence based, however the activities suggested do not always best represent the evidence and neglect the need for broader consumer and community engagement.
- NADA would like to support ADCAs submission in regards to the implementation of a non-linear, accelerated taxation regime and the removal of alcohol from the provisions of the national Competition Policy and government regulation of alcohol advertising.
- NADA does not believe that a larger evidence base needs to be built, but instead this money should be directed to consultations with local communities and a wider investment in putting policy initiatives in place.
- The policy framework must include community development strategies for isolated and disadvantaged communities. There must be an investment in social infrastructure for these communities.
- The role of non government specialist services must be considered in the mix, these organisation are community based and able to develop and deliver focused strategies that can work cross-sectorially.

If you do not support these action, or have other suggestions, what would you propose we do as a nation to halt the toll of early deaths and disease focused through alcohol related harm?

- There is a clear focus on Commonwealth controlled policy areas, taxation, policing, advertising and GPs. The vital element of community is missing from the suggested initiatives.
- Treatment and early intervention have not been considered in the mix, the effect of many of these activities will increase demand for services. This comes at a time when NSW health has cut treatment services budgets by 10%.
- Improving public safety concentrates efforts on on-premises drinking where only a minority of drinking occurs. The response is of course enforcement but the overall public health affect of this is limited. This must be extended to drinking in the community and looking at outcomes that reduce at home and family violence.
- The connections have not been made with outcomes that are affecting the Australian community beyond bars and clubs and violence; mental health, homelessness and domestic violence.

What are the most important issues that can engage support from individuals, communities, industry and governments and drive cultural change?

- There needs to be consultation with local communities affected by Alcohol use. This needs to incorporate the broad range of providers who work with the harms caused by alcohol beyond the primary health and policing concerns. This would necessarily be women affected by Domestic Violence, communities affected by acquired brain damage, anxiety, depression and other cognitive functioning issues.
- There needs to be more support for families, while the importance of parents role modeling is recognized, young people's behavior is influenced by many factors outside of the family. There should also be support for families who are struggling to support a young person with problematic drinking behaviors.

What prevention strategies work best for high-risk groups, particularly among young people and in Indigenous communities?

- Any policy development requires in-depth consultation with the groups to be targeted, not limited to the evidence, service providers and other stakeholders.
- Young people, rural communities, women leaving violence and indigenous communities should be resourced to become active participants in developing the policy and defining the outcomes. Non government organizations work with these communities and have develop strong and trusted relationships. They are ideally placed to participate broadly in the development of the policy and the roll out of any initiatives.

PRIVACY: yes

SUBMIT: Submit