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28 January 2016

The Hon Timothy Anderson QC
Review of the Liquor Licensing Act 1997
Consumer and Business Services
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Dear Mr Anderson

SUBMISSION TO THE REVIEW OF THE LIQUOR LICENSING ACT 1997

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Review of the *Liquor Licensing Act 1997* (the Review). The comments in this submission are provided by Victim Support Service (VSS) in support of the submission prepared by the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE).

Prevention of alcohol harms should be the priority in undertaking this Review. Alcohol's toxicity poses threats to the health, safety and wellbeing of the consumer. Also of supreme concern for society and governments is the threat a person's alcohol consumption poses to others.

Specifically, with regard to victims of crime, VSS wishes to highlight the following:

- There is a range of harms that impact on those around the drinker. This is known as 'harm to others' and includes road traffic accidents, suicide, homicide, alcohol poisoning, injury and violence in and around licensed venues and in our homes.ⁱ In Adelaide CBD alone alcohol is responsible for 58 per cent of victim-reported crimeⁱⁱ and 65 per cent of serious and minor assaults.ⁱⁱⁱ VSS has provided counselling and advocacy services for many victims of violent attacks that have occurred in the Adelaide CBD. Victims of violence in public places often have difficulty in recovering the sense of safety they once felt in the community. We have provided three examples (Attachment 1).
- An increase in trading hours is associated with an increase in harms^{iv} and alcohol-related assaults increase significantly after midnight.^v Extended trading hours increase the availability of alcohol, which is associated with an increase in assault, domestic violence, road crashes, child maltreatment and harmful consumption.^{vi} Australian and international research demonstrates that for every additional hour of trading, there is a 16-20 per cent increase in assaults and conversely, for every hour of reduced trading there is a 20 per cent reduction in assaults.^{vii}
- A recent study examining associations between alcohol sold through off-premise liquor outlets and the incidence of traumatic injury in surrounding areas found that a ten per cent increase in chain outlet density (e.g. Dan Murphy's and BWS) is associated with 35.3 per cent increase in

intentional injuries (e.g. assaults, stabbing and shooting), and 22 per cent increase in unintentional injuries (e.g. falls, crushes, or being struck by an object).^{viii}

The SA Government's *Alcohol and other drug strategy 2011* (AOD strategy) acknowledges these threats. The strategy also acknowledges that 'substance misuse causes a disproportional amount of harm in the Aboriginal community'.^{ix} The Government has also committed to a 'Health in All Policies' (HiAP) approach to policy development. Alcohol is a prime example of how other sectors influence public health.

The policies enshrined in the *Liquor Licensing Act 1997* (SA) have material bearing on the health and wellbeing of the people of SA. As such, the Government's goal of reducing the rate of alcohol-related harms necessitates a health-focused revision of alcohol policies that concern the price, availability and promotion of alcohol.

SA lacks a liquor regulation system and legislative framework that serves these public health interests. Disappointingly, this was not the subject of the Discussion Paper nor the Review's Terms of Reference. These documents also failed to mention SA's AOD strategy and the HiAP perspective on alcohol policy.

This Review is a decisive opportunity for the Government to improve the health and wellbeing of South Australians on the back of evidence-based liquor policies.

VSS therefore calls on this Review to recognise the need to regulate liquor in line with the public interest in harm prevention and community consultation.

Yours sincerely



Jodie Sloan
Acting Chief Executive
Victim Support Service



ATTACHMENT 1 CLIENT CASE STUDIES: ALCOHOL-RELATED HARMS

26-year-old Male Client of VSS

- Assaulted in Rundle St when he was protecting his girlfriend from an unknown male who pinched her. Punched by the assailant and fell back and hit his head on the pavement. Works as a structural engineer.
- Physical injuries: Two fractures to his skull, bleeding on the brain and a broken jaw.
- Consequences: Hospitalised and had four weeks off work. He now has difficulty with his balance, has lost his sense of taste and has hearing difficulties. He previously enjoyed outdoor activities (e.g. bike riding) but has ceased this for fear of further injury to his head.

23-year-old Male Client of VSS

- Head-butted from behind when leaving a city nightclub in Hindley St. Lost consciousness and when he awoke, was being kicked by five people.
- Physical injuries: Acquired brain injury.
- Consequences: Became increasingly withdrawn. Suffered memory loss. Can no longer play football due to risk of reinjuring his head and is reluctant to go out with his friends. Lost his job due to losing confidence in himself and others.

19-year-old Male Client of VSS

- Assaulted by six unknown men while walking down Hindley St. Was pushed to the ground and kicked while he was down. Was studying engineering science at university but deferred due to symptoms from assault.
- Physical injuries: Broken nose and bruised ribs.
- Consequences: Suffers from panic attacks and has become increasingly angry to the extent that he punched a mirror and severely damaged his hand, requiring rehabilitation. His relationship with his girlfriend is now suffering due to his increased drinking and marijuana use. Unable to continue university study and also relinquished apprenticeship and place in an audio production course.

ⁱ World Health Organization (WHO). (2010). Global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol. Geneva: WHO.

ⁱⁱ SA Health. (Date unknown). Alcohol harm statistics. Adelaide: SA Health. Retrieved from: www.sahealth.sa.gov.au

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid.

^{iv} Babor, T., et al. (2010). Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity. Research and Public Policy. 2nd Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, p.15-16.

^v Jochelson, R. (1997). Crime and place: An analysis of assaults and robberies in Inner Sydney. Sydney: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR); Briscoe, S. and Donnelly, N. (2001). 'Temporal and regional aspects of alcohol-related violence and disorder' Alcohol Studies Bulletin. Sydney: NSW BOCSAR.

^{vi} Ibid; Livingston, M. (2011). 'A longitudinal analysis of alcohol outlet density and domestic violence'. Addiction 106(5): 919-25; Chikritzhs, T., Stockwell, T. (2006). 'The impact of later trading hours for hotels on levels of impaired driver road crashes and driver breath alcohol levels'. Addiction 101(9): 1254-64; Laslett, A.M., et al. (2015). The hidden harm: Alcohol's impact on children and families. Canberra: FARE; Stockwell, T., and Chikritzhs, T. (2009). 'Do relaxed trading hours for bars and clubs mean more relaxed drinking? A review of international research on the impacts of changes to permitted hours of drinking'. Crime Prevention and Community Safety 11: 153-170.

^{vii} Kyri. K., Jones, C., McElduff, P., Barker, D.J. (2010). 'Effects of restricting pub closing times on night-time assaults in an Australian city'. Addiction 106 (2): 303-310; Rossow, I. & Norström, T. (2011). 'The impact of small changes in bar closing hours on violence. The Norwegian experience from 18 cities'. Addiction 107(3): 530-7.

^{viii} Morrison, C. & Smith, K. (2015). Disaggregating relationships between off-premise alcohol outlets and trauma. Canberra: Monash University, Ambulance Victoria and FARE.

^{ix} SA Government 2011 AOD strategy, p.10.