



20 April 2015

Mr Mark Johnstone
Executive Officer
NSW Sentencing Council
Department of Justice
GPO Box 5199
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Johnstone,

Reference on Alcohol and Drug Fuelled Violence - Call for Submissions

AIC response to “possible sentencing measures to achieve deterrence and behaviour change in relation to alcohol and drug fuelled violence”

I refer to your email dated 30 March 2015 inviting the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) to provide a submission by 24 April 2015.

Unfortunately the AIC is not able to make a formal response on this occasion but is pleased to provide the following references to literature authored and/or published by the AIC to inform the inquiry.

Recent research by the Australian Institute of Criminology and related agencies:

- Morgan A et al. 2009. [Key Issues in alcohol-related violence](#). Research in Practice no. 4, Australian Institute of Criminology.

Summary : This issues paper provides a brief overview of the relationship between alcohol use and violence, the characteristics of alcohol-related violence and important risk factors that can be targeted by prevention strategies to reduce the social harms associated with alcohol use.

- Miller P et al. 2015. [Interventions for reducing alcohol supply, alcohol demand and alcohol-related harm : final report](#). National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund.

Summary : Several key elements make the current Responsible Service of Alcohol conditions difficult for licensees to implement and for police to enforce. Recommends a review of relevant liquor Acts across Australia especially investigating success rates of prosecutions and subsequent penalties.

- Miller P et al. 2012. [Dealing with alcohol-related harm and the night-time economy](#). National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund.

Summary : A substantial amount of harm was associated with pre-drinking and that measures that dealt directly with alcohol consumption employed in Newcastle, such as restricted trading hours, were the most effective in reducing alcohol-related crime. Such measures need to be implemented across all venues to ensure a level-playing field for business and act as a vehicle for culture change amongst patrons.

- Pennay A et al. 2014. [Prohibiting public drinking in an urban area : determining the impacts on police, the community and marginalised groups.](#) National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund.

Summary: The evaluation produced equivocal findings as to whether public drinking laws reduced congregations of drinkers (with differing findings across municipalities). There was no evidence that these laws reduced alcohol-related crime or harm. However, public drinking laws do make residents feel safer and improve the amenity of an area from the perspective of residents and traders.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Dr Adam Tomison
Director (Chief Executive)