

## Nicole Lim

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**From:** Maiy Azize <mai.azize@act.greens.org.au>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 9 October 2016 11:34 PM  
**To:** Nicole Lim  
**Subject:** ACT Greens response to FARE election platform

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Good afternoon,

Thank you for giving the Greens the opportunity to respond to your questionnaire. Below is a response on behalf of the ACT Greens.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further queries.

Maiy Azize  
ACT Greens Campaign Manager

1. Do the ACT Greens support the establishment of a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Clinic in the ACT?

### RESPONSE

The ACT Greens will provide \$500,000 towards the establishment of a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Clinic in the ACT from July 2018 onwards.

The ACT Greens recognise the developments in understanding of the impacts of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) on children and later life. We applaud FARE's consistent advocacy of this issue, particularly in bringing it to the attention of politicians and the media beyond only focusing on FASD's impacts on regional and remote communities. We also understand that it is a very complex spectrum of disorders that many mainstream services, both medical and social, struggle to identify, let alone respond to. The justice system is also an area of particular concern, and we believe that more work should be done to support people with FASD in the courts, as has been proven to be effective in Canada, where a positive formal diagnosis of FASD is taken into consideration when sentencing, as sufferers often have poor impulse control and consequential thinking which can be linked to their criminal behaviour.

2. Do the ACT Greens support expanding the Liquor Advisory Board to include a parent representative?

### RESPONSE

The Greens believe this idea has merit and would explore it further during the next Assembly.

3. Do the ACT Greens support banning alcohol advertising on all ACT Government property?

### RESPONSE

We agree to this in principle. As Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, which included ACTION, Greens MLA Shane Rattenbury changed ACT Government advertising policy to ensure that alcohol, amongst other things like gambling and junk food, could not be advertised on buses in the ACT. We would like to further investigate potential bans on other venues and avenues of advertising.

4. Do the ACT Greens support isolating alcohol products in supermarkets to areas children cannot access and restricting alcohol promotions to inside this area?

#### RESPONSE

Yes, both locally and nationally, the Greens are deeply concerned by the increasing exposure to alcohol advertising and alcoholic products more generally.

5. Do the ACT Greens support increasing annual licence fees for all bottle shops by a minimum of 25 per cent?

#### RESPONSE

While we do support adjusting licensing arrangements for bottle shops to reflect harms caused by alcohol, we are interested in a more nuanced approach. The Greens believe, for instance, that licensing arrangements should be linked more closely to identified risk factors, such as larger discount liquor stores having to pay higher annual fees, rather than applying a blanket 25% increase to licences across the board. The Greens also believe that we should apply harsher penalties when bottleshop staff and their customers do not adhere to responsible service of alcohol laws.

6. Do the ACT Greens support introduction of Controlled Purchase Operations to enforce supply to minor legal provisions?

#### RESPONSE

We support effective enforcement of 'supply to minor' offences and are open to discussing the use of controlled purchase operations with all the relevant stakeholders.

ACT Greens additional comment on alcohol fuelled violence and late night venue hours

The ACT Greens agree that reducing alcohol-fuelled violence in Canberra is something that does need to be addressed, and urgently. We think we need to take a holistic view to this issue, and examine the deep cultural problems with substance abuse and related acts of violence that we have in Australia. Reducing violence on our streets at night does not need to be about closing venues early, nor does it need to be about stopping law-abiding people from having an enjoyable night out.

While the ACT Greens didn't support the introduction of the Attorney-General's so-called 'last drinks' proposal, we do believe that we must introduce many of the other elements put forth in the ACT Liquor Reform White Paper to keep our night-time economy safe as well as vibrant.

The Greens believe that there are too many late night activities that are centered around alcohol consumption. The Greens would like to see more family friendly, non-alcohol related night time activities take place in our city. That's why, during the next term of government, the Greens will establish a special stream of entertainment diversity micro-grants, to help artists and community groups hold events where alcohol is not served or consumed.

We'd like to see an improved risk-based approach to liquor licensing where smaller bars and venues with live music are encouraged. Evidence shows that factors such as venue capacity are accurate indicators of the risk of alcohol related violence. We would also like to see much harsher penalties for not adhering to the responsible service of alcohol, an increase in the diversity of night-time activities so drinking isn't necessarily the primary focus, and an increase in the number of police on the ground during busy periods.

The Greens also believe that bottle-shop licensing arrangements should be linked more closely to identified risk factors, such as larger discount liquor stores having to pay more than smaller retail outlets.

These sorts of measures do work. The first phase of liquor licensing reforms in 2010 saw an increase in night-time policing and improvements to late night transport, with better taxi operations. Alcohol-related assaults fell by an average of 11% between 2010-2011 and 2012-2013 periods, on a month-to-month basis, right across the ACT. The subsequent introduction of Uber has also helped younger people go home at the time they want to. There is no doubt that there is still a small subset of people who are engaging in alcohol-related violence, but the Greens believe that we need to address our societal and behavioural issues, rather than stopping people going out at night.

Maiy Azize

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