



ANDREW BARR^{MLA}
CHIEF MINISTER, ACT LABOR

Michael Thorn
Level 1 40 Thesiger Court
DEAKIN, ACT, 2600

4 October 2016

Dear Mr Thorn

Thank you for writing to me with FARE's election platform and survey.

ACT Labor knows most people who buy alcohol, whether for consumption at home or in a licensed venue, do so responsibly.

We also recognise that there are some people in our community who drink irresponsibly.

A re-elected Labor government will tackle irresponsible consumption of alcohol by:

- increasing the licence fee for high volume, big-discount off licences which trade long hours by up to 20 per cent;
- devoting the extra revenue raised with this increase in licence fees into an education campaign for the responsible consumption of alcohol, delivered in close consultation with industry and key stakeholders, including health professionals;
- giving venues the statutory right to evict or refuse entry to people who are intoxicated, violent, quarrelsome or disorderly;
- looking at how licence fees can be responsive to venues with a strong record of good behaviour, and to venues that frequently incur demerits;
- extending the power of the Attorney General to prohibit alcohol products targeting children and young people; and
- giving the Commissioner the power to impose community safety conditions on a venue if that venue is experiencing repeated high levels of problem behaviour.

Labor understands understand how important education is to improve preventative measures for Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.

This is why we proudly supported the *Women Want to Know* campaign, which aimed to give women the best information to make informed decisions about their health and the health of their unborn child. Research shows that although 97% of women would like to talk to their doctor or midwife about alcohol, many health professionals are unsure how to broach the subject.



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We have also committed significant funding to expand services at the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children. This funding will increase access to services for all mothers and their babies, particularly if they have specific needs before or after birth.

ACT Labor will consider the need for a specific clinic and the associated costs through the new Clinical Service Framework.

ACT Labor is determined to reduce family violence, no matter the cause. If re-elected, our comprehensive, \$21.42 million family violence package, will:

- Increase the capacity of specialist drug treatment services to deliver programs that complement family violence services;
- Train frontline staff right across Community and Emergency Services, Health and Education to better identify and intervene earlier in family violence situations;
- Establish a full-time Coordinator-General for Family Safety and a dedicated safer families team to lead the government effort to improve outcomes for victims and their families;
- Strengthen integrated case management and coordination of services for victims of family violence; and
- Support improved decision-making in child protection services.

Labor knows prevention is better than cure. That's why a re-elected Labor government will appoint a Preventative Health Coordinator to lead our work with the community, local organisations, the private sector and the ACT Government to help keep Canberrans healthy and out of hospital.

The Preventative Health Coordinator will be responsible for developing preventative health strategies, with a focus on addressing smoking rates, alcohol consumption and obesity, and reduce the incidences of related chronic health care conditions.

Thank you for your continued advocacy in this area.

Yours Sincerely

Andrew Barr MLA
ACT Chief Minister