# Call to National Cabinet to commit to Rapid Review recommendations on alcohol

# Open letter: Call to National Cabinet to commit to Rapid Review recommendations on alcohol

Dear Prime Minister, Premiers and Chief Ministers,

We are writing to call on you to take action to address alcohol’s role in domestic, family and sexual violence.

Many women have shared the role that alcohol plays in their experience of violence.

They’ve told us that as the sun goes down, more alcohol flows into their home, and they anticipate the increasing severity of violence.

As Survivor Advocate, Kym Valentine has said, “We’ve always known that when drinking is involved, it is like pouring petrol on a bonfire.”

The need for bold and immediate action has never been clearer.

The release of the rapid review final report *“Unlocking the prevention potential: Accelerating action to end domestic, family and sexual violence”*, provides a welcome and important blueprint for government reform that will prevent and reduce harm.

We are heartened to see the expert panel acknowledge alcohol’s role in domestic, family and sexual violence.

Crucially, the report goes further to include specific actions on alcohol as a lever to reduce violence.

Given the crisis we are currently seeing in Australia, it is imperative that governments implement the expert panel’s recommendations on alcohol swiftly, fully and without compromise.

The following recommendations from the report are vital in any approach to preventing domestic, family and sexual violence:

**11a. equipping and resourcing General Practitioners (GPs), perinatal, and mental health and alcohol and other drug (AOD) services to identify and support DFSV victim-survivors and people who use violence (Commonwealth and states and territories).**

**11d. Increasing cross-sector collaboration between the AOD and DFSV sector and provide specialised services for women that are family friendly and support caring for children (states and territories).**

**14c. establishing a strategy for capability uplift across other intersecting workforces, and prioritising legal, justice, child protection and health (including AOD and mental health) sectors.**

**17a. adopting clear primary objectives in state and territory liquor regulatory regimes to prevent gender-based violence, alongside existing objectives around alcohol harm reduction (states and territories).**

**17b. restrictions on alcohol sales, delivery timeframes (states and territories) and advertising (Commonwealth and states and territories).**

We also call on you to re-establish a national governance framework for the AOD sector in Australia to ensure coordination in the development, implementation and funding of national priorities and to facilitate action across the state and territory governments.

We look forward to working with all Australian governments to improve the health, wellbeing and safety of women and children across the country.

Yours sincerely,

**Annabelle Daniel OAM**   
Chief Executive Officer   
Women’s Community Shelters

**Patricia Turner AM**  
Chief Executive Officer   
National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

**Caterina Giorgi**    
Chief Executive Officer    
Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education

**Melanie Walker**   
Chief Executive Officer   
Australian Alcohol and other Drugs Council

**Chris Christoforou**   
Chief Executive Officer   
Victorian Alcohol & Drug Association

**Professor Elizabeth Elliott AM FAHMS FRSN**   
Distinguished Professor in Paediatrics and Child Health     
University of Sydney

**Jennifer Harland**   
President   
Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australia

**Rob McPhee**   
Chief Executive Officer   
Danila Dilba Health Service

**Professor Nicole Lee**   
Chief Executive Officer   
Hello Sunday Morning and 360Edge

**Ms Sophie Harrington**   
Acting Chief Executive Officer   
National Organisation for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, NOFASD Australia

**Prof Dan Lubman AM**   
Executive Clinical Director   
Turning Point

**Dr John Crozier**   
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**Anita Mills**   
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**Michael White**   
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**Dr. Erin Lalor**   
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**Dr Ingrid Wilson**   
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Judith Lumley Centre, La Trobe University

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**Adjunct Professor Terry Slevin**    
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**Ms Natalie Stapleton**Executive Officer   
Alcohol Change Australia

**Mr Brian Howe AO**   
Hon Professor   
University of Melbourne   
Former Deputy Prime Minister   
Uniting Church of Australia

**Emeritus Professor Angela Taft**   
Judith Lumley Centre, La Trobe University

**Kym Valentine**   
Survivor Advocate

**Dr John Paterson**   
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Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory

**Dr Matthew Hope FRACS**   
Chair, Trauma Committee   
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**Professor Mark Frydenberg AM FRACS**   
Chair, Health Policy and Advocacy Committee   
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**Lorraine Keane**   
Chief Executive Officer   
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**Shanna Whan**   
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**Nicole Hewlett**   
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National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Palliative Care Association (NATSIPCA)

**Associate Professor Kerin Fielding FRACS**   
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**Donna Ah Chee**   
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**Robyn Williams PhD, MA, BA**   
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**Professor Jacqueline Bowden**   
Interim Discipline Group Lead, Public Health   
Director, National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA)

**Michelle Royes**  
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**Professor Simone Pettigrew**   
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**Prue Warrilow**Chief Executive Officer  
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**Kellie Friend**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Toora Women

## Join our community

Will you join the community taking action on alcohol?