



fanfare

DONOR NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2019

FARE has stepped-up its advocacy for stronger alcohol regulation, most recently focussing on pockets of the country where vulnerable communities are being targeted as growth markets by the alcohol industry.

In the Northern Territory, which is dubbed Australia's booze capital, FARE is working with local public health bodies and legal representatives to challenge Woolworths' attempt to open a Dan Murphy's 'big-box' superstore right next to several Indigenous communities.

Our advocacy is strengthened by a combination of research and knowledge gained from a case against Woolworths in the City of Casey in Victoria. In that case, the opposing stakeholders, including FARE, the local council, state police and community groups, were powerless under Victoria's weak legislation to stop the construction of the discount warehouse.

However, the research undertaken by FARE's Centre for Alcohol Policy Research (CAPR) at La Trobe University, combined with the strategic and legal outcomes in the case have strengthened FARE's capacity to challenge Woolworths' attempt to introduce the packaged liquor business model into the NT.

The fight against Woolworths is FARE's ongoing battle against the drivers of alcohol harm - price and supply. The third major driver of harm is the aggressive marketing by the alcohol industry.

BASEBALL AUSTRALIA STEPS UP TO THE PLATE

I'm proud to announce that baseball is the first major sporting code to join the End Alcohol Advertising in Sport campaign, with Baseball Australia making an executive decision to shun alcohol sponsorship and advertising. We congratulate Baseball Australia for leading the charge and making a stand against the influence of the alcohol industry on kids and sport.

INSPIRATIONAL SUPPORTERS

We don't often give a face to alcohol harm, so I am inspired by a story in this issue of FanFARE. Shanna Whan has overcome a personal battle with alcohol use and is now sharing her story to inspire change in others.

Together with true champions like Shanna, and with your support, our work will continue to build the evidence for policymakers and the industry to end the unacceptable alcohol toll on the Australian community. Your contribution - whether by signing a petition, making a donation or sharing FARE's campaigns via social media - is a key part of our ultimate success; and I thank you for your support.

Michael Thorn
Chief Executive



CHALLENGING WOOLWORTHS TO KEEP THE NT FREE FROM BIG-BOX OUTLETS

Our work continues to stop the proliferation of alcohol outlets.

Together with the NT branch of the Public Health Association of Australia FARE is legally challenging plans by Woolworths to open a Dan Murphy's superstore in Darwin.



Woolworths hopes to open the 'big-box' outlet near vulnerable communities in Darwin and Palmerston. FARE has grave concerns that if this application is approved, the NT will see an enormous increase in the availability of alcohol in a jurisdiction already awash with alcohol and suffering from the highest levels of alcohol harm in Australia.

The levels of alcohol consumption and associated harm in the Territory are well known – the highest rates of consumption in the country, high rates of alcohol-fuelled violence and crime, the highest proportion of deaths and hospitalisations attributable to alcohol in Australia, and a disproportionate impact of harm on Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander people. The annual cost of alcohol harm in the NT is \$1.39 billion (based on 2015-16 data) equating to \$7,577.94 per adult.

For this reason, the NT Government currently has a moratorium on new takeaway liquor licences. However, Woolworths is attempting to circumvent the moratorium by applying to transfer and vary an existing, small BWS-store licence.

FARE and other concerned parties have objections being considered by NT Liquor Commission, which held its second public hearing on the matter on 26 March. Follow us on Twitter and Facebook for updates on the case.

VIC LIQUOR LA COMMUNITY

FARE is maintaining pressure on the Andrews Government to act on the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Family Violence to overhaul Victorian liquor laws.

We are calling on the government to amend the Liquor Act to give local government the power to stop one of the primary causes of alcohol-related family violence: the proliferation of packaged liquor outlets trading in residential areas.

A research report launched in Victoria showed the alcohol industry funded by the state. Victoria's weak liquor licensing system has failed despite objections by local authorities.

The report by the Centre for Alcohol Policy Research (CAPR), supported by the City of Casey in outer Melbourne – backed by community groups – failed to stop a 'big box' Dan Murphy's store from being built in a family violence hot spot.

The report underscores that more than 50% of applications are approved 'by default' – 90 per cent of applications given approval under Victoria's existing planning systems.

There is indisputable evidence that the density of alcohol outlets is linked to higher rates of violence and other social conditions.

BASEBALL AUSTRALIA STEPS UP TO THE PLATE



Rising Baseball Australia star, James "Jimmy Da Fish" Nati



Ryde Red Hawks Little League players and coaches prepare for the launch.



End Alcohol Advertising in Sport spokesperson Cam Vale on joining the campaign.

LAWS FAIL

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EIGHT YEARS WITHOUT A NATIONAL ALCOHOL STRATEGY

Australia has now entered its eighth year without a National Alcohol Strategy, just as figures show the number of alcohol-related deaths a year is approaching 6,000. However, the toll of alcohol on Australian families extends well beyond deaths - to street violence in popular night spots, injury from falls and road crashes, the drag on Australia's economy through time lost and ill-health, and the enormous impact on families through domestic violence, child neglect and dysfunction, particularly in First Nations communities.

This reflects the broader failure of the Australian Government to adopt strong preventive health policies to arrest this growing burden. The FARE Election Platform outlines four actions to prioritise in the next term of the government:



1

INFORM CONSUMERS ABOUT THE LONG-TERM HEALTH EFFECTS OF DRINKING ALCOHOL



2

PREVENT LIFELONG DISABILITY BY STOPPING ALCOHOL USE DURING PREGNANCY



3

REDUCE ALCOHOL-FUELLED FAMILY VIOLENCE THROUGH ACTIONS THAT ADDRESS ALCOHOL AS A RISK FACTOR



4

PROTECT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ALCOHOL ADVERTISING



For more information on the FARE Election Platform 2019 visit: www.fare.org.au



Kamara Buchanan congratulates Baseball Australia CEO



(L-R) Matt O'Neill, Head Coach and Geordie McRae, Charter President, Ryde Hawks Baseball League



Ryde Hawks Little League players show how it's done.



Mitch Edwards, MBL player and Baseball Australia representative supports End Alcohol Advertising in Sport campaign.

EOFY

the time to give



As the end of the financial year approaches, we ask you to consider contributing a valuable gift, which is helping to protect Australian families and make our communities safer and healthier by stopping alcohol harm.

Please give before 30 June 2019 to receive your tax deductible gift receipt. Your gift joins with the gifts of other supporters who are as committed to stopping alcohol harm as you are.

By making a donation, you will be supporting our vital research, education, policy and advocacy work. FARE is an independent not-for-profit registered charity, and every dollar received is invested in efforts to prevent the harm being caused by alcohol.

Please send your gift today.

You can donate by visiting www.fare.org.au/donate, phoning 02 6122 8600 or sending us an email at supportfare@fare.org.au

Thank you to all donors! Your support means that we can continue working to stop the harm. We would love to hear your feedback, drop us an email with your comments at supportfare@fare.org.au

SOBER IN THE COUNTRY

Reaching out to those in need



Shanna Whan was your typical outback Aussie girl; a social person who loved a cold beer with her friends, but she gradually went from being a social drinker into chronic alcoholism.

At rock bottom Shanna was unable to find any meaningful support in her rural setting, so she set out to make a change. She started a rural discussion group called Sober in the Country and found a massive response from people ready to join in.

"I was one of those people who shared memes on social media like 'I'm not an alcoholic, alcoholics go to meetings - I go to parties'. It was all fun and games until it wasn't. And suddenly - the time had flown by in the blink of an eye and I was looking at an early death, either by accident or by my own hand. I knew that either was imminent."

Sober in the Country is addressing a serious 'invisible' gap in public health in the bush - where rural Australians are slipping through the cracks of our current health care system. With every kilometre travelled away from major cities, alcohol-related harm and death increases exponentially.

Shanna is a remarkable ambassador leading a charge that is overdue for alcohol reform across rural Australia, and this year she has stepped up her advocacy, working with FARE and the NSW/ACT Alcohol Policy Alliance (NAAPA).

www.soberinthecountry.com.au

CREATING A NEW NORM AT UNI

An innovative new health promotion campaign, *Reduce Risky Drinking*, is encouraging university students to create a new norm around alcohol use in the Australian Capital Territory.

The prevailing norm at university is for risky drinking - not all students drink frequently, but when they do drink, the majority consume alcohol at risky levels.

The project is a collaboration between FARE, the Australian National University and the University

of Canberra and takes a social norms approach, encouraging students to create a new norm around alcohol use.

Campaign activities have included events involving students, display and distribution of print and digital resources on campus, competitions, giveaways, and social media.

An animated video was also produced that encourages students to think about their drinking behaviour and attitudes.



Students from the Australian National University taking part in on-campus *Reduce Risky Drinking* campaign activities.

More information: [f ReduceRiskyDrinking](https://www.facebook.com/ReduceRiskyDrinking)



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