

COMMUNITY CONNECT

I am honoured to be joining FARE as Chief Executive Officer.

I worked at FARE previously as the Director of Policy and Research and have re-joined the FARE Team.

At the heart of FARE's work is the health and wellbeing of our children and communities. This is something that we are acutely aware of right now. As a result of our changed lives because of COVID-19 - the increased stress, anxiety, financial stress and isolation - we've seen some early spikes in alcohol sales. This will lead to increased alcohol use and harm if we don't get ahead of this. These harms will be largely invisible because it will happen in people's homes - but we cannot ignore these harms and we need to be doing all we can to ensure that children and families are safe.

FARE is working hard to do all we can to prevent

an increase in harm. We have developed a resource for people on where they can go for help or advice. This can be accessed at www.fare.org.au/covid19. We are engaging with decision-makers about the need for increased services and common-sense regulation. We are speaking to and sharing the stories of people who are impacted. We are monitoring and responding to aggressive marketing and discounting practices by the alcohol industry. We are undertaking research on what the impact is.

We're also holding an 'In Conversation' webinar event with some of our stakeholders to discuss the situation with COVID-19 self-isolation and what can be done about it. I'd love for you to be able to join us at the event, further details are in this newsletter.

Without your support, this wouldn't be possible. We are extremely grateful

for your contribution and your commitment to our shared vision to stop these harms and ensure our children and communities are healthy and safe.

I'm looking forward to connecting with you in coming months about our work. We can't do what we do without our community and we thank

you for being part of this.

I've already had many conversations with people from across Australia who have shared their stories, their experience and their knowledge with me. I look forward to many more of these conversations. Please feel free to contact me at supportfare@fare.org.au.



FARE Chair Andrew Fairley AM and FARE CEO Caterina Giorgi.



IN THIS TOGETHER: COVID-19 and alcohol

COVID-19 is rapidly changing our lives, and now more than ever, it's important to stay healthy for ourselves and our loved ones.

FARE has created an online resource with useful tips, strategies and information, including groups that people can turn to if you need support at

www.fare.org.au/covid19

We're also holding a special 'In Conversation' webinar event on 6 May 2020 to update our community on our work preventing increased harms from alcohol during COVID-19. We'd love you to join us at the event. We'd love for you to join us.

To register please visit www.fare-australia.eventbrite.com.au or contact Sarah Thyssen on sarah.thyssen@fare.org.au for more information.

ENDING FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER (FASD) IN



Your support has made a big difference to our work to bring attention to the risks of FASD in Australia.

The Australian Government recently announced a grant for a national campaign to raise awareness of the risks of drinking alcohol during pregnancy and while breastfeeding. FARE, in coalition with a number of FASD organisations across Australia, will be leading this campaign.

Raising awareness of FASD is critical as one in four pregnant women in Australia continue to drink alcohol after knowledge of their pregnancy, resulting in approximately 76,000 alcohol-exposed pregnancies annually. FASD is estimated to affect up to five

WOOLWORTHS PERSISTS WITH BUILDING A DAN MURPHY'S MEGASTORE IN THE MIDDLE OF 3 DRY ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

Thank you to all our supporters who wrote to Woolworths' Chair Gordon Cairns asking Woolworths to reconsider building a Dan Murphy's megastore in middle of three dry Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory (NT).

The Liquor Commission in Darwin said it would "lead to a significant increase in the level of alcohol related harms" in the community.

FARE supported local Aboriginal health organisations and alcohol and other drug services to fight the application in the NT Liquor Commission and the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative

Tribunal (NTCAT). Since this Woolworths has taken the development to the Supreme Court and successfully lobbied for the laws in the NT to be changed in late March to make it easier for them to build their alcohol megastore.

FARE has now written to the Woolworths Board Directors seeking confirmation that Directors have discharged their duties

to properly inform themselves about the nature of risks associated with this development, and properly consider and balance those risks according to their responsibilities under section 180 of the Corporations Act.

When a large corporation has before it information that confirms that their proposed development would result in more alcohol-fuelled harm, and

even death, then they need to be transparent as to their understanding of the risk and accept responsibility for their decision-making.

We will continue to support local community organisations in stopping this development which will fuel more alcohol harm.



AUSTRALIA

per cent of the Australian population.

FARE and our partners have been working for many years to advocate the need for warning labels on alcohol products to inform women of the risks of alcohol consumption when pregnant.

In a recent poll FARE conducted we found the majority of Australians (70%) want the Government to act to make pregnancy warning labels mandatory on all alcohol products. Almost a quarter of Australians reported they were not aware that alcohol use was harmful in pregnancy and while breastfeeding, demonstrating the need for education about the risks of drinking and reinforcing this with clear warning

labels on alcohol products.

On 20 March the Australia and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation met to decide the fate of the new mandatory pregnancy warning labels developed and endorsed by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ). Unfortunately, the decision was made to further delay the introduction of pregnancy health warning labels; this is the result of the alcohol industry's relentless pressure to keep the community in the dark about the health harms from alcohol use during pregnancy. FARE will continue the work to ensure that an effective health warning is placed on alcohol products to prevent children from being born with a lifelong disability.





Thank you to all our supporters and donors. Your support means that we can continue working to stop the harm caused by alcohol. By making a donation, you are part of a community of people who are 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 ensure that our children and communities are healthy and safe and free from alcohol harm.

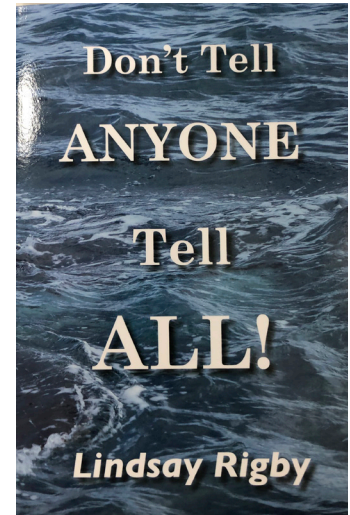
You can donate by visiting the FARE website, phoning 02 6122 8600 or sending us an email at supportfare@fare.org.au



**STOPPING
HARM
CAUSED BY
ALCOHOL**

FARE would like to congratulate and thank one of FARE's longest-standing supporters, Lindsay Rigby. Lindsay has written a book 'Don't Tell Anyone - Tell All', exploring five generations of women in Australia from early pioneering women to today based on the stories of her ancestors and the harmful influence alcohol has on their lives. She is generously donating part of the profits from the book sales to FARE. The books are \$20 with \$5.50 postage.

For more information and to purchase a copy of Lindsay's book please contact Lindsay via linzi37@bigpond.com.



ALCOHOL MARKETING IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

FARE's online forum *Drink Tank* this month featured a post from Julia Stafford from the Cancer Council WA's Alcohol Policy Team who reveals that the alcohol industry is exploiting this vulnerable time in our lives to maximise their profits.

For liquor retailers, COVID-19 is an opportunity to capitalise on people staying at home by heavily promoting 'contactless' home delivery services and emphasising that drinkers need never run out of their chosen alcohol products.

Wanting to be humorous is not a valid reason for promoting heavy drinking, particularly at a time when people may be looking for ways to relieve stress and our health systems are already under a lot of pressure. Of concern to health groups, there is no monitoring system in place to ensure alcohol companies are abiding by the relevant self-regulatory marketing codes. It's highly likely that some other marketers are using similar techniques and getting away with it.

This is a difficult time for everyone, and people will be looking for ways to reduce their stress. But instead of being bombarded with ads encouraging us to drink, the Australian community should be hearing that alcohol can make us feel more stressed and anxious. It can affect our sleep, as well as our ability to fight disease. Drinking habits that are created now may be difficult to shake when we come out of the pandemic. Reducing your drinking will not only help to keep you healthy and safe now, you'll reduce your risk of cancers and other health problems later. It will also help to prevent extra burdens on already-stretched health services.

Read more at www.drinktank.org.au

