

Welcome to the Spring edition of FARE Community Connect. I want to start by thanking everyone who took action to support our campaign to get visible pregnancy health warnings on all alcohol products.

As you may know, the Australia and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation made an historic decision in July to mandate health warning labels about the dangers of consuming alcohol while pregnant or breastfeeding on all alcohol products.

The FARE team along with more than 180 organisations and 4000 community leaders and advocates, stood with people living with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and told Food Forum Ministers that we needed this change and we needed it now.

It is so great to see that Ministers put the health of our children and families first.

We know the new warning will contribute to fewer children being born with FASD and we know this decision will have a lasting positive impact on generations to come.

On behalf of the FARE team and our friends who have fought for so long for this change, thank you. Whether you signed a petition, donated, or wrote to your local minister, we could not have achieved this without you.

In August FARE launched its 11th annual Alcohol Poll. The Poll is Australia's most comprehensive survey of Australians' attitudes and behaviours when it comes to alcohol.

The main concern from this year's Poll is the intensification of alcohol use in the home. Despite what many of us assume, people who drink alcohol are more likely to do so at home - and this is true even before the lockdown measures. This is the case whether people are younger or older, women or men, or living in major cities or regional areas.

The FARE team is working hard to prevent an increase in harm, especially during COVID-19.

We are engaging with decision makers about the need for increased services and common

sense measures to keep families and communities safe.

We are listening to the stories of people who are impacted by alcohol harm and we're amplifying their voices.

We are also monitoring and responding to aggressive marketing and discounting practices by the alcohol industry.

Finally, this month marks six months for me being at FARE in this role. During this time I have been overwhelmed by the support that we have received. I feel so grateful to have a community of people who share FARE's vision for healthy and safe communities. Without our community of support, FARE could not do the important work that we do.

We are immensely grateful for your help to ensure our children and communities are healthy and safe.



Caterina Giorgi, FARE CEO



FASD
Awareness
Month



PREVENTING FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER IN AUSTRALIA

Thank you to all our supporters.

We did it — Australia will soon have a mandatory, visible pregnancy health warning on alcohol products!

More than 4,000 community leaders, doctors, researchers and families — and 180 organisations — called on Food Forum Ministers to support a red, black and white pregnancy health warning.

Because of everyone in the community who took action, for the first time mandatory and effective pregnancy health warnings will be placed on every alcohol product to inform the community of the harm alcohol can cause during pregnancy within three years.

It is amazing to see what we can achieve when we stand together.

By sharing our stories, sending letters to representatives, making calls and speaking up in the media — together, we have encouraged decision makers to make the right decision for future generations.

Countless hours of advocacy, strong research and testing, meaningful consultation and lots of community action has gone into getting this health warning over the line.

At every turn, there have been attempts by alcohol lobby groups to delay or water down this vital reform. But together, we have stayed strong and not backed down.

The majority of Australians have supported a clear and visible pregnancy health warning on alcohol products for decades — and they are with us in celebrating today's result.

There are many people with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and their families who will be overjoyed at this decision — they have been campaigning for this for a long time, and it is a well-earned victory.

To everyone who took action, thank you for making a visible pregnancy health warning a reality!



FARE's eleventh Annual Alcohol Poll surveyed Australians in January and early February this year, prior to the new health warning.

The Poll found that the home is the place where most people drink alcohol most frequently (67%). People who drink alcohol report having the largest increase in drinking at home last year (67%).

Forty per cent of Australian have been advised to limit their drinking. 28% of parents and guardians report that they are concerned about the risk of harm because of someone else's drinking.

Drinking in the home is widespread, yet 67% of people report alcohol occurring in the home because of someone else's drinking.

Alcohol increases the severity and frequency of harm.

September is FASD Awareness month, the 9th month recognises the importance of staying alcohol-free throughout the 9 months of pregnancy. Community events throughout the month of September, including wearing red shoes on 9 September, provide opportunities to raise awareness about FASD and the risks of prenatal alcohol exposure, to support pregnant women and families, and to share this prevention message around the world.

For more information and to get involved visit:
www.nofasd.org.au/red-shoes-rock



On behalf of all at NOFASD we thank you from the bottom of our hearts and you should know that this decision will lighten the hearts of many of our parents and carers who do the real work with FASD every single day.

LOUISE GRAY
Chief Executive Officer
NOFASD Australia



Few get an opportunity to make a really lasting impact in our lives but today, the unprecedented outcome you and your colleagues have won will benefit millions of lives not just in Australia and New Zealand but hopefully across our shared global community.

I could not be happier for you all.

EUNAN MCKINNEY
Head of Communications and Advocacy
Alcohol Action Ireland



PREGNANCY WARNING
Alcohol can cause lifelong harm to your baby

veyed over 2,000 people in late
ior to COVID-19 taking hold in Australia.

e where Australians across all age
73%) and is the place where people
est quantity in one occasion over the

affected by alcohol-fuelled violence, and
at their child has been harmed or put at
alcohol use.

we don't often think about the harms
ause they're largely invisible.

ency of family violence and contributes

to a range of cancers and alcohol dependence. These harms have significant
negative impacts on children, families and whole communities.

Given these findings it is unsurprising that the majority of Australians (77%)
believe that more needs to be done to reduce the harm caused by alcohol
and especially there is increasing concern about alcohol companies use of the
internet to target children.

There is also strong support for a range of measures to prevent alcohol harm
including 88% of Australians that support proof-of-age should be verified in
order to purchase alcohol online and 86% of Australians who think that alcohol
advertising should not be shown to children on social media.

FARE's Annual Alcohol Poll continues to be an important source of information
for decision makers, not for profit organisations and the general community
in providing a snapshot on alcohol use, awareness of harms and perceptions
across Australia.



Thank you

Thank you to all our supporters and donors. With your help we can continue to work towards stopping the harm caused by alcohol.

By making a donation, you are supporting vital research, education, policy and advocacy work.

FARE is an independent not-for-profit registered charity, and every dollar you give helps ensure that our children and communities are healthy, safe and free from alcohol harm.

You can donate online, by calling 02 6122 8600 or by emailing supportfare@fare.org.au.

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**STOPPING
HARM
CAUSED BY
ALCOHOL**

CLOSING THE LOOPHOLES FOR ONLINE ALCOHOL RETAIL TO KEEP FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES SAFE

It's not okay to sell alcohol to children. But there's a gaping hole in our laws around online alcohol sales where there is no requirement for proof of age ID checks. Any emergency room doctor or nurse will tell you, pushing alcohol on young people or people who are already intoxicated is not just irresponsible, it can be deadly.

This is as true in pubs and clubs as it is in people's own homes.

Everyone selling alcohol should have to check proof of age identification because no-one should be able to sell alcohol to children, which is illegal in pubs, clubs and bottle shops.

The FARE team is advocating to close the loopholes for online alcohol retail that means they don't have to uphold community standards like checking ID and ensuring they aren't selling alcohol to people who are intoxicated.



We're advocating for common sense measures including:

- requiring online alcohol retailers to check ID
- ensure they aren't selling alcohol to people who are intoxicated
- undertake responsible services of alcohol training and
- to not push alcohol into people's homes before 9am or within two hours of the previous sale.

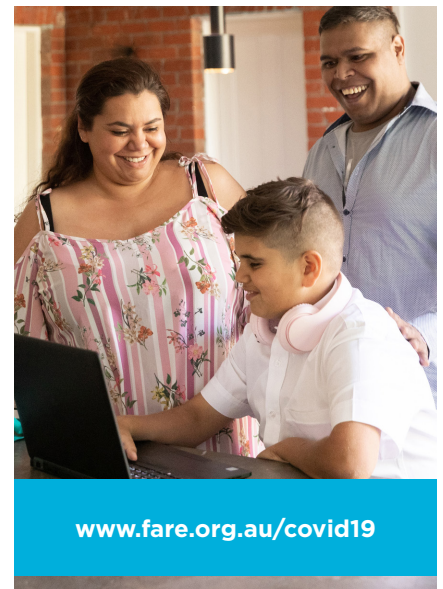
NSW will consider legislation relating to these measures in September, and Victoria is also examining reforms in this area over the coming months.

FARE's Annual Alcohol Poll found online alcohol retailers were not routinely checking ID, with only 38 per cent of people indicating their ID was checked on delivery and 25 per cent saying the alcohol was left unattended.

We will continue our work to advocate for these evidence-based policy measures to keep families and communities safe and prevent alcohol-fuelled harm.

IN THIS TOGETHER: COVID 19 AND ALCOHOL

With parts of Australia dealing with outbreaks of COVID-19, it's important that we all continue to focus on looking after our health and wellbeing. FARE's COVID-19 website has information on how alcohol use can impact individuals, families and communities during this time, along with resources and support services that can help.



www.fare.org.au/covid19