



DR RICHARD DI NATALE

Leader of the Australian Greens

Senator for Victoria

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05/03/2019

Michael Thorn
Chief Executive
Foundation for Drug and Alcohol Research
Level 1, 40 Thesiger Court, Deakin
ACT 2600 Australia

via email: michaeltthorn@fare.org.au

Dear Mr Thorn,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education's (FARE) questions relating to your election platform.

Please see The Australian Greens' responses below.

Inform consumers about the long-term health effects of drinking alcohol

As a former drug and alcohol clinician, I know more than many about the harms of alcohol on the individual and those around them. The statistics show that drinking at risky levels remains high in Australia and The Greens are supportive of measures to address the drinking culture in Australia. We would support a strong focus on prevention in alcohol policy including consideration of public education campaigns to highlight the serious impacts of drinking at risky levels on the drinker, their family and the broader community. The Greens would support mandatory use of health advisory information on all forms of alcohol advertising, occupying a minimum of 20 per cent of the advertising broadcast time or physical space. We would also provide \$100 million over four years for a strong and consistent public awareness campaign to communicate the risks of long-term health effects of alcohol.

Prevent lifelong disability by stopping alcohol use during pregnancy

The Greens are concerned about the rising rates of FASD in Australia. We support measures to ensure that women have access to the information they need about their alcohol consumption, including providing funding for a campaign to raise awareness of the risks of drinking during pregnancy. This includes clear labelling of alcohol products to indicate that alcohol consumption can be harmful to unborn children. We also understand the necessity for women to be provided with clear information from health professionals about the harms of drinking when pregnant including brief interventions.

We support full funding of the NDIS and all other essential government services, to ensure that all Australians have access to the health and social supports they require.



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We would also provide \$10m over four years for a national campaign to raise awareness of the need to abstain from alcohol use during pregnancy. This campaign would help prevent lifelong disability through reducing the rates of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD) in the Australian Community

Reduce alcohol-fuelled family violence through actions that address alcohol as a risk factor

The Australian Greens have significant concerns about the harms associated with risky consumption alcohol, in particular on children and young people. We know that the impacts of risky drinking are not only on the individual drinker but also on their families including children, and broader community. It is clear that action is required to address and prevent family violence, including alcohol-related violence.

We would support, and advocate to Government, for the inclusion of specific actions in the Fourth Action Plan on family violence.

Protect children and young people from alcohol advertising

The Greens recognise the harm caused to children and young people from alcohol promotion through advertising and sponsorship. Research shows that alcohol marketing strategies lead to underage drinkers starting to drink, regular young drinkers becoming prone to binge-drinking patterns, and established young drinkers drinking at riskier levels which can place them at risk of harms.

We have serious concerns about the current advertising regulations which mean that while there are current regulations in place, alcohol advertising is permitted at any time of the day – including at the peak times for child viewing – so long as live sports or any sports related program is being broadcast. We would support lifting the exemption to time-based restrictions of alcohol advertising on free-to-air television to prevent children being exposed and the introduction of effective regulation to ensure that children using online spaces are protected from exposure to alcohol advertising and marketing

Support an independent inquiry into alcohol advertising across all platforms

We already know that we need further alcohol advertising restrictions however the Australian Greens would support an independent inquiry into alcohol advertising across all platforms if this was done with a view to developing specific, detailed reforms. We look forward to working with you during the next parliament to progress this important issue.



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Thank you again for the opportunity to respond to the FARE's election priorities.

Yours Sincerely,

Senator Richard Di Natale

Leader of the Australian Greens & Senator for Victoria



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