



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

IT'S A LOCK: OFFICIAL CRIME STATS PROVE PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES A SUCCESS

16 April 2015: The Foundation of Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) says official New South Wales data released today provides further, irrefutable evidence that the State's nation-leading alcohol policy reforms are working to reduce harms and save lives.

FARE says the positive findings released by the New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) demonstrate that the adoption of evidence-based measures results in significant reductions in alcohol harms.

The measures were introduced in February 2014 following a strong community call for action and included the introduction of a 3am last drinks and 1:30am lockouts in the Sydney CBD.

FARE Chief Executive Michael Thorn, says the clear evidence of a reduction in assaults in Kings Cross (down 32%) and the Sydney CBD (down 40%) is important in ensuring the State Government stays the course on the lockout laws and providing evidence to encourage other states and territories to introduce these measures.

"There can be no disputing that the 3am last drinks and lockouts are working. BOCSAR's data makes clear that violence is decreasing, harms are down and the streets are safer, and importantly, the data also makes clear that the problem has not shifted to an adjacent district. Today's findings are a ringing endorsement of that sound public health approach," Mr Thorn said.

Michael Thorn is available for comment.

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The **Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE)** is an independent, not-for-profit organisation working to stop the harm caused by alcohol. Alcohol harm in Australia is significant. Over 5,500 lives are lost every year and more than 157,000 people are hospitalised making alcohol one of our nation's greatest preventative health challenges.

For over a decade, FARE has been working with communities, governments, health professionals and police across the country to stop alcohol harms by supporting world-leading research, raising public awareness and advocating for changes to alcohol policy. In that time FARE has helped more than 750 communities and organisations, and backed over 1,400 projects around Australia.