

**OPEN LETTER FROM DOMESTIC, FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SURVIVOR ADVOCATES
TO THE HON PETER MALINAUSKAS MP, PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Cc:

The Hon Andrea Michaels MP, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs

The Hon Katrina Hildyard MP, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence

Dear Premier Malinauskas,

We write to you as women who have endured the traumatic impact of domestic, family and sexual violence to express our deep concern about the surge in online alcohol sales and rapid home delivery that continuously threatens the safety of women and children in homes and communities across South Australia.

In response to the Prime Minister’s recent call for alcohol reform at National Cabinet, we commend your government for being the first in the country to propose changes to state alcohol laws with a draft Bill that is soon to be tabled in parliament.

Your leadership in addressing outdated liquor laws to protect women and children is exemplary, setting a standard for other states and territories to follow.

As a nation, we stand at a critical crossroad in addressing Australia’s epidemic of domestic, family and sexual violence. We urge you to lead with courage and ensure the draft Bill is put forward without delay to become nation-leading and life-saving legislation.

As prominent Australian domestic, family and sexual violence survivor-advocates, we have faced unimaginable violence from male partners who claimed to love us. We have seen first-hand how increased accessibility to alcohol is directly linked to increased frequency and severity of violence. Having rebuilt our lives, we are now driven to create positive social change and reduce the role of alcohol as a catalyst for harm.

The proposed legislation has three essential and common-sense inclusions which must be upheld:

1. Adopt harm minimisation as the paramount object in the Liquor Act.
2. Amend alcohol delivery times to the home to between 10am – 10pm.
3. Introduce a two-hour safety pause from alcohol being ordered to its delivery into the home.

The stark reality is that one woman is murdered every four days in Australia, with more than half of male domestic violence homicide perpetrators engaged in problematic alcohol use at the time of the crimes.

Premier, we urge you to progress this Bill now, as it stands, for the thousands of South Australian women and children who aren’t safe in their homes tonight. For those who dread the sound of an alcohol delivery driver arriving, triggering a shift from safety planning to panic. For the children trapped in terror, hearing glass shatter and furniture thrown, hiding under beds, holding their breath, not knowing if their mother is okay.

Our collective voices can no longer be ignored. While gender inequality is the key driver of violence against women, evidence shows that alcohol is one of the most prevalent accelerants for violence in the home.

We are not just two women writing an open letter to the Premier of South Australia. We also want to speak for the children who don’t have a choice and don’t have a voice.

Our extensive advocacy empowers us to represent the voices and experiences of the Victim Survivors who stand alongside us, and while one in four women will experience intimate partner violence, we also know one in six children have experienced harm from the alcohol use of adults around them. Two thirds of this harm is from an adult in their home. Children are the most important voice, and too often they are missing in the conversation about alcohol’s role in family and domestic violence.

Women and children need government and community leaders to pull every lever within reach because their lives depend on it.

This is a moment to lead with conviction and without compromise or hesitation.

Premier, we urge you to seize this moment and progress the draft Bill with these simple but vital inclusions intact, as a matter of urgency.

SINCERELY,

Stacey Nelan

Consultant and Survivor Advocate (SA)

Kym Valentine

Actor and Survivor Advocate (VIC)