

2015 Queensland Election Poll: Perspectives on alcohol

Key Findings

- 71% of Queenslanders believe that Australia has a problem with excess drinking or alcohol abuse.
- 74% of Queenslanders believe that more needs to be done to reduce the harm caused by alcohol-related illness, injury and related issues.
- 64% of Queenslanders would like the leaders of the major parties, Premier Campbell Newman and Queensland Labor Leader Annastacia Palaszczuk, to outline their plans to address alcohol-related harms prior to the 2015 State Election.
- Queenslanders supported a range of policies to reduce alcohol harms, including having more public transport options (86%) and introducing a closing time for pubs, clubs and bars of no later than 3am (82%).
- The majority of Queenslanders believe that alcohol advertising should be banned on public transport (62%) and at bus and train stops (57%).
- 67% of Queenslanders think political parties should not be able to receive political donations from the alcohol industry.
- 30% of Queenslanders have been affected by alcohol-related violence.
- One in six Queenslanders (16%) have been a victim of alcohol-related violence, and one in five (21%) have had a family member or friend affected by alcohol-related violence.
- 52% of Queenslanders consider the city or centre of town unsafe on a Saturday night, with 92% of these people indicating that it felt unsafe because of people affected by alcohol.

About the Polling

The Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) commissioned Galaxy Research to undertake polling of Queenslanders to gain an understanding of their perspectives on alcohol policies in the lead up to the 2015 State Election.

This study was conducted online between Thursday 8 January 2015 and Wednesday 14 January 2015. The survey sample comprised of 351 respondents aged 18 years and older residing in Queensland.

Following the collection of data, the results were weighted by age, gender and region to reflect the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) population estimates.

Findings

Australia's problem with alcohol and Government's actions

The majority of Queenslanders (71%) believe that Australia has a problem with excess drinking or alcohol abuse, 13% do not and the remaining 16% are unsure.

The majority of Queenslanders (74%) believe that more needs to be done to reduce the harm caused by alcohol-related illness, injury and related issues, 12% do not and 14% are unsure.

The majority of Queenslanders (64%) indicated that they would like the leaders of the major parties, Premier Campbell Newman and Queensland Labor Leader Anastacia Palaszczuk, to outline their plans to address alcohol-related harms prior to the 2015 State Election. Of the remaining respondents, 15% indicated that they did not, while 21% are unsure.

Perspectives on alcohol-related policies

The majority of Queenslanders supported the introduction of all 12 alcohol policies raised in the poll (with support for each of the measures ranging from 52% to 88%).

Policies that received majority support include having more public transport options (86%) and introducing a closing time for pubs, clubs and bars of no later than 3am (82%). The table below provides an overview of the responses received for all alcohol-related policies.

	Support (%)	Do not support (%)	Don't know (%)
Closed-circuit television (CCTV) in and around licensed venues	88	4	8
More public transport options in areas where there are pubs, clubs and bars	86	4	10
Increasing penalties for people involved in alcohol-related violence	86	5	10
Increasing police numbers at times and places where alcohol-related violence is greater	85	4	11
A closing time for pubs, clubs and bars of no later than 3am	82	7	11
Stopping the sale of alcohol 30 minutes before closing time	76	11	14
Introducing identification (ID) scanners	75	11	14
Introducing a 1am lockout for pubs, clubs and bars	61	22	17
Not allowing alcohol to be sold for less than \$1 per standard drink	65	20	15
Placing a limit of four drinks on the number of drinks a person can purchase at one time after 10pm	59	24	17
Stopping the sale of alcohol and energy drinks after midnight	58	24	18
Stopping the sale of shots after 10pm	52	29	19

The majority of Queenslanders believe that alcohol advertising should be banned on public transport (62%) and at bus and train stops (57%). The table below provides an overview of the perspective on banning alcohol advertising on public property.

	Support (%)
Ban on alcohol advertising at sports grounds	46
Ban on alcohol advertising on public transport (eg. buses and trains)	62
Ban on alcohol advertising at bus and train stops	57
None of the above	31

Note that participants were able to select more than one response. Therefore the total may exceed 100%.

The majority of Queenslanders (67%) think political parties should not be able to receive donations from the alcohol industry, 11% think they should and 22% are unsure.

Community Safety

Almost one third of Queenslanders have been affected by alcohol-related violence (30%).

One in six Queenslanders (16%) have been a victim of alcohol-related violence and one in five (21%) have had a family member or friend who has been affected by alcohol-related violence.

The majority (52%) of Queenslanders consider the city or centre of town to be unsafe on a Saturday night. 33% consider it to be safe and 15% are unsure. The table below provides an overview of responses for all Queenslanders surveyed.

	Queenslanders (%)
Very safe	1
Safe	32
Unsafe	35
Very unsafe	17
Don't know	15

Queenslanders who indicated that the city or centre of town was unsafe were then asked what factors made it unsafe. The vast majority (92%) indicated that people affected by alcohol made the city or town unsafe. This was greater than those who selected people affected by drugs (80%) and threatening behaviour (71%). The table below provides an overview of responses for Queenslanders that considered built up areas in the city or town centre to be unsafe.

	Queenslanders (%)
People affected by alcohol	92
People affected by drugs	80
Threatening behaviour	71
Large groups of people	40
Poor lighting	40
Other	5

Note that participants were able to select more than one response. Therefore the total may exceed 100%.



Foundation for Alcohol
Research & Education



About FARE

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. More than 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.

FARE is guided by the World Health Organization's *Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol* (2010, Geneva: World Health Organization) for stopping alcohol harms through population-based strategies, problem directed policies, and direct interventions.

If you would like to contribute to FARE's important work, call us on (02) 6122 8600, email info@fare.org.au or visit FARE's website: www.fare.org.au.

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