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Dear Dr Earl

Thank you for reaching out to the WA Liberal Party regarding our position on addressing alcohol-related gender-based violence and reviewing the *Liquor Control Act 1988* in line with the commitment made at National Cabinet.

The WA Liberal Party is committed to tackling family and domestic violence (FDV) in all its forms. Western Australia has the highest rates of FDV in the country, and under the current government, incidents have increased by 76% since 2017. Our policy approach is focused on prevention, prosecution, and support for victims, with a strong emphasis on addressing coercive control, strengthening police training, and increasing refuge capacity for women and children fleeing violence.

We acknowledge the concerning link between alcohol abuse and domestic violence and recognise the importance of ensuring that alcohol laws effectively mitigate harm. If elected, a WA Liberal Government will undertake a broad review of measures to reduce FDV, including evaluating legislative, policing, and community-based interventions that can break the cycle of violence.

While the *Liquor Control Act 1988* is an important legislative tool, our immediate priorities in addressing FDV include:

- **Criminalising coercive control** to provide legal protections for victims against non-physical forms of domestic abuse, bringing WA in line with other jurisdictions.
- **Comprehensive police training** with a \$4 million commitment over four years to ensure officers are equipped to respond effectively to FDV cases, including cases where alcohol is a contributing factor.
- **A \$20 million expansion in refuge capacity** to support women and children escaping violence, with a focus on regional areas where service shortfalls are most acute.

We will continue to assess evidence-based approaches that can contribute to reducing FDV, including the role of alcohol laws. Should we form government, we will consider the recommendations emerging from other jurisdictions, including South Australia, and engage with experts, stakeholders, and affected communities before making any changes to liquor legislation.

We appreciate the work FARE does in advocating for policies that aim to reduce harm and protect vulnerable Australians. If elected, we would welcome further discussions to explore practical and effective ways to address alcohol-related violence without imposing unnecessary burdens on responsible businesses and consumers.

We will ensure that Western Australians, particularly women and children, are protected by strong laws, well-trained law enforcement, and adequately resourced support services. Thank you for your advocacy on this important issue. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you would like to discuss this further.

Kind regards

**Libby Mettam MLA**

Member for Vasse

Leader of the WA Liberal Party

Shadow Minister for Health; Mental Health;

Prevention of Family & Domestic Violence

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