

4 October 2024

The Hon Lance McCallum MP  
Minister for Employment and Small Business  
Minister for Training and Skills Development

**By email:** [REDACTED]

**Subject: Retention of alcohol harm reduction laws**

Dear Minister

AMA Queensland members witness first-hand the harms caused by alcohol-fuelled violence and the devastation it wreaks on our communities every day. These preventable harms also place extra stress on our already overburdened health system, particularly for our struggling emergency departments (EDs).

That is why doctors wholeheartedly supported world-leading reforms such as safe night out precincts and other programs aimed at tackling alcohol-fuelled violence. This includes lock-out provisions to keep our community, and especially our young people, safe.

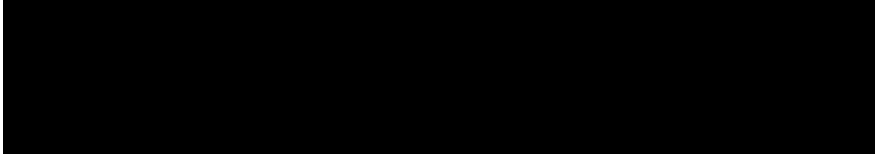
Since their introduction, research has shown these laws have successfully reduced alcohol harms and ED presentations for assault and other injuries. This is significant given harmful levels of alcohol consumption remains a major health issue in Queensland and across Australia.

While a vibrant night life economy is an important part of our shared experience, it must not be prioritised over community safety. We note crime is also a key issue for voters in this month's Queensland election and any weakening of these laws risks undoing the gains made and public condemnation.

We urge you to commit to maintaining our existing alcohol harm reduction laws if elected on 26 October and only introducing amendments where robust evidence demonstrates reforms would improve community safety, not weaken it.

You may wish to review AMA Queensland's Election Priorities, particularly Priority 17 – Substance-related harm, [accessible on this link](#).

Yours sincerely

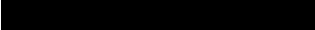


Dr Nick Yim  
**President**  
**AMA Queensland**

Dr Brett Dale  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**AMA Queensland**

Copied to:

The Hon Steven Miles, Premier, 

The Hon Shannon Fentiman MP, Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services, Minister for Women,  


The Hon Yvette D'Ath MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic  
and Family Violence, [c](#) 