

4 October 2024

Mr Brent Mickelberg MP
Shadow Minister for Employment and Training
Shadow Minister for Small and Family Business
Shadow Minister for Open Data

By email: [REDACTED]

Subject: Retention of alcohol harm reduction laws

Dear Shadow 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.

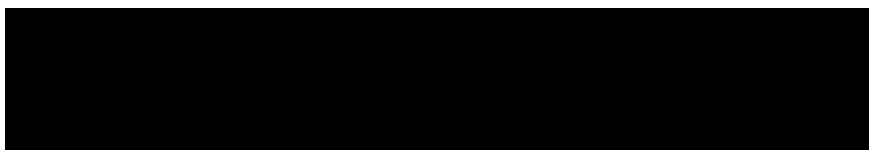
Since their introduction, research has shown these laws have successfully reduced alcohol harms and ED presentations for assault and other injuries. This is significant given harmful levels of alcohol consumption remains a major health issue in Queensland and across Australia.

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:

Mr David Crisafulli MP, Leader of the Opposition, 

Ms Ros Bates MP, Shadow Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Shadow Minister for Women,


Mr Tim Nicholls MP, Shadow Attorney-General, Shadow Minister for Justice, Shadow Minister for CBD Activation,
