

13 November 2014

Professor Ian Harper
Competition Policy Review Secretariat
The Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600

Professor Kypros Kypri

Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics
School of Medicine and Public Health
HMRI Building, Level 4 West
Lot 1 Kookaburra Circuit
New Lambton Heights, NSW, 2305
Phone: +61(0)2 4042 0536
Fax: +61(0)2 4042 0044
Email: Kypros.Kypri@newcastle.edu.au

Dear Professor Harper

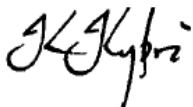
Submission on the Competition Policy Review Draft Report (Draft Report)

I am a behavioural scientist focused on the epidemiology of alcohol-related injury and disease, and the evaluation of policies and interventions to reduce unhealthy alcohol use. I was trained in psychology and public health at the University of New South Wales, University of California San Diego, and University of Otago, and hold a National Health & Medical Research Council Senior Fellowship in alcohol-related injury and disease. I have published many epidemiological studies of supply-side factors in the aetiology and prevention of alcohol-related harm. I have also undertaken large randomised trials of individually focused interventions to reduce unhealthy alcohol use.

As a psychoactive carcinogen with high addiction potential, the conditions of alcohol availability, promotion, sale, and consumption need to be carefully regulated. Treating it like toilet paper or breakfast cereal will serve the commercial interests of the alcohol industry but would be contrary to the scientific evidence and likely to diminish rather than “improve the welfare of Australians” as the Policy seeks to do.

If the recommendations in the Draft Report are taken up, we can expect a substantial expansion in the availability of alcohol, and then increased consumption and related morbidity. I encourage you to pay careful attention to the submission of the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education, which critiques the Draft Report in detail with reference to the scientific evidence.

Sincerely



Kypros Kypri PhD
Professor
Senior Brawn Fellow

