



Western Australian Network of
Alcohol & other Drug Agencies

Professor Ian Harper
Competition Policy Review Secretariat
The Treasury
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Dear Professor Harper

SUBMISSION TO THE COMPETITION POLICY REVIEW

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Competition Policy Review Draft Report (Draft Report).

WANADA is the peak body for the alcohol and other drug education, prevention, treatment and support services in Western Australia. WANADA is a membership driven not-for-profit association, representing over 90 member services.

WANADA is concerned that the recommendations made in the Draft Report will greatly increase the availability of alcohol in Australia and lead to significant increases in alcohol harms. WANADA offers my support for the submissions prepared by the National Alliance for Action on Alcohol and Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE).

Alcohol is the principle drug of concern for the majority of people accessing treatment and support services offered by the alcohol and other drug sector in Western Australia. As a drug, alcohol is a product that requires special laws and restrictions about where it can be sold, when it can be sold and who can consume it. These regulations reflect the harm that alcohol can cause and are both in the public interest and for the public's benefit. Alcohol should not be subject to the same economic principles as products that do not cause significant harm in the community.

The Draft Report states that the aim of Competition Policy is to "improve the welfare of Australians" but the recommendations outlined in the Draft Report will not achieve this, as they will lead to the increased availability of alcohol and increased harms. The previous review of Competition Policy resulted in vast increases in number and types of premises selling alcohol across Australia. This has contributed to alcohol-related harms which include 15 deaths (62% increase in ten years) and 430 hospitalisations each day.i

WANADA members have identified that access, availability and promotion of alcohol is the highest priority concern for the sector as it directly impinges on the quantum of work and demand for their services.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to raise these important issues with you.

Yours sincerely



Jill Rundle
CEO

Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies.

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ⁱ Gao, C., Ogeil, R. and Lloyd, B. (2014). Alcohol's burden of disease in Australia. Canberra: FARE and VicHealth in collaboration with Turning Point