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PO Box 312
LAVINGTON NSW 2641

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

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.

At the outset can I make it clear that I make this submission as a private citizen but by way of background can I say that I am the father/stepfather of 7 adult children and grandfather to 12. I am also a Councillor of the City of Albury and am active in a number of community organisations. I am the council representative on the Local Liquor Accord.

My submission relates specifically to the sale and use of alcohol. Alcohol is not a product like groceries, hardware, clothing, homewares, etc. It is responsible for significant harm in our community. In Albury we have one nightclub which is a "scheduled premises" in accordance with OLGR guidelines as a violent venue. It trades only 2 – 3 nights per week and holds only about 450 patrons. Per capita and per hour of trade it is clearly one of the most violent venues in NSW.

In close proximity we have numerous establishments and liquor outlets. The standard procedure for many young people today is to purchase alcohol from discount outlets such as Dan Murphys, First Choice or one of the many other supermarket outlets and bottle shops and "pre-load".

I am concerned that if the recommendations outlined in the draft report were implemented we would see a significant increase in the number of liquor outlets under the guise of greater competition and this would not "improve the welfare of Australians". It would in fact lead to further alcohol related harm.

Alcohol is also a major factor in domestic violence and the proliferation of outlets will have a detrimental effect on what is already a serious social problem.

At this stage what we need is a strengthening of the powers of local and state governments to regulate the density and trading hours of licensed premises not a relaxation.

In summary can I ask you to look at alcohol as a special case and I strongly support the submission made by the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE).

Yours sincerely,



DAVID THURLEY