

9 August 2016

The Hon Adam Giles MLA
Chief Minister
GPO Box 3146
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Chief Minister

PAAC AND FARE ELECTION PLATFORM: CALLING TIME ON TOO MUCH GROG IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

The People's Alcohol Action Coalition (PAAC) and the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) are pleased to provide you with the *PAAC and FARE Election Platform: Calling time on too much grog in the Northern Territory*.

Alcohol is a huge problem in the Northern Territory. Territorians drink more alcohol per capita than any other state or territory and the proportion of people who drink daily is the highest in the country. Some are proud of the Territory's drinking culture, but there are very real costs associated with these levels of consumption.

The Territory has the highest proportion of deaths and hospitalisations in Australia attributable to alcohol. Alcohol is involved in nearly 60 per cent of domestic assaults and more than half of all assaults.¹ The burden of these this harm is borne by all Territorians.

The Territory needs a concerted approach to reduce alcohol-related harm, one which is evidence-based and looks beyond election cycles. This approach needs to focus on targeting alcohol's availability, supporting community action, helping people affected by alcohol problems and taking a long-term view to achieving change.

PAAC and FARE invite you to respond to the election platform and ask for your party's responses on the following questions relating to key alcohol policy issues:

1. Do the Country Liberals support the reintroduction of the Banned Drinkers' Register in conjunction with scanning of photo identification cards in all licensed venues?
2. Do the Country Liberals support the introduction of a minimum price for alcohol equivalent to the existing minimum price of takeaway full-strength beer, currently at approximately \$1.30 per standard drink?
3. Do the Country Liberals support the development of a response to the final report of the Select Committee on Action to Prevent Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders and its 26 recommendations, including funded action to prevent, diagnose and manage FASD in the Northern Territory?
4. Do the Country Liberals support the introduction of a risk-based licensing scheme for liquor licensing in the Northern Territory?

5. Do the Country Liberals support the ban on political donations made by the alcohol industry and their representatives?

We propose to publish a scorecard of each party's response to these questions before the election is held on 27 August 2016. Your response by 17 August 2016 would therefore be appreciated to allow time for us to catalogue the various responses and prepare the scorecard.

Please contact Meredythe Crane at meredythe.crane@fare.org.au or 02 6122 8600 if you have any questions about the PAAC and FARE Election Platform.

Yours sincerely



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PEOPLE'S ALCOHOL ACTION COALITION



MICHAEL THORN
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¹ Northern Territory Police Northern Territory Crime Statistics viewed on 3 August 2016 at <http://www.pfes.nt.gov.au/Police/Community-safety/Northern-Territory-crime-statistics.aspx>