



QUEENSLANDERS CALL POLITICIANS TO ACCOUNT OVER ALCOHOL HARMS

21 January 2015: Queensland has a problem with alcohol, and with less than two weeks until the 2015 QLD State Election, voters are calling on the major parties to outline their plans to address the State's heavy alcohol toll.

New polling released today has shown a majority (74%) of Queenslanders believe that more needs to be done to reduce the harm caused by alcohol, with 64 per cent calling on Premier Campbell Newman and Queensland Labor Leader Annastacia Palaszczuk, to outline their plans to address alcohol-related harms ahead of the Election.

In keeping with these findings, those polled also supported a range of measures aimed at reducing alcohol harms, with the majority of Queenslanders supporting the introduction of 12 alcohol harm reduction policies.

82 per cent of Queenslanders were in favour of the introduction of a 3am close for pubs, clubs and bars, with a majority (62%) also in favour of introducing a 1am lockout for pubs clubs and bars. The majority of Queenslanders also believe that alcohol advertising should be banned on public transport (62%) and at bus and train stops (57%).

Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) Chief Executive Michael Thorn says ten days out from the Queensland State Election the poll findings make clear that alcohol harms are a big concern for voters.

"This new polling makes very clear that the people of Queensland want real action to reduce the State's growing alcohol toll. Ahead of the election voters want Premier Campbell Newman and Queensland Labor Leader, Annastacia Palaszczuk, to clearly lay out their plans to tackle alcohol-related harms," Mr Thorn said.

Commissioned by FARE and conducted by Galaxy Research, the poll found that almost one third (30%) of Queenslanders have been affected by alcohol-related violence, and a majority (52%) of Queenslanders consider the city or town centre to be unsafe on a Saturday night.

Queensland Coalition for Action on Alcohol Chairman, Professor Jake Najman says there is wide consensus about what needs to be done to reduce alcohol harms.

“With three deaths and almost 100 persons being hospitalised in Queensland every day because of alcohol, we need governments to act. The high alcohol related burden on the community is recognised by most people, but the Queensland Government continues to ignore effective solutions,” Professor Jake Najman said.

The poll also found over two thirds (67%) of Queenslanders believe that political parties should not receive donations from the alcohol industry.

Mr Thorn says that for too long the alcohol industry has been given a seat at the table.

“It’s now time to listen to the experts, and the community. Government needs to embrace evidence-based measures that address the availability of alcohol if it hopes to successfully turn back the tide of alcohol harms,” Mr Thorn said.

Mr Thorn (@MichaelTThorn) is available for interview.

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The **Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE)** is an independent, not-for-profit organisation working to stop the harm caused by alcohol. Alcohol harm in Australia is significant. Over 5,500 lives are lost every year and more than 157,000 people are hospitalised making alcohol one of our nation’s greatest preventative health challenges.

For over a decade, FARE has been working with communities, governments, health professionals and police across the country to stop alcohol harms by supporting world-leading research, raising public awareness and advocating for changes to alcohol policy. In that time FARE has helped more than 750 communities and organisations, and backed over 1,400 projects around Australia.