

2016 QUEENSLAND POLL

PERSPECTIVES ON ALCOHOL



fare
Foundation for Alcohol
Research & Education

 **galaxy**
research

FEBRUARY 2016

KEY FINDINGS

- Almost three quarters (74%) of Queenslanders support the late night trading hour measures recently announced by the Queensland Government to reduce alcohol-related violence.
- 80% of Queenslanders believe that Australia has a problem with excess drinking or alcohol abuse, an increase from 71% in 2015.
- The majority of Queenslanders (80%) believe that more needs to be done to reduce the harm caused by alcohol-related illness, injury death and related issues, an increase from 74% in 2015.
- The majority of Queenslanders (71%) expect alcohol related problems in Australia to remain the same or get worse over the next five to ten years.
- The majority of Queenslanders do not believe that governments (59%), alcohol companies (69%) and pubs and clubs (70%) are doing enough to address alcohol misuse. The proportions of Queenslanders who hold these beliefs have increased since 2015.
- Other policies that received majority support include introducing a closing time for pubs, clubs and bars of no later than 3am (84%) and not selling alcohol in supermarkets (69%).
- Two thirds (65%) of Queenslanders consider the city or centre of town to be unsafe on a Saturday night, an increase from 52% in 2015.

ABOUT THE POLLING

The Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) commissioned Galaxy Research to undertake polling of Queenslanders to gain an understanding of their perspectives on alcohol policies.

This study was conducted online between Friday 8 January 2016 and Thursday 14 January 2016. The survey sample comprised 350 respondents aged 18 years and older residing in Queensland.

Following the collection of data, the results were weighted by age, gender and region to reflect the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) population estimates.

FINDINGS

AUSTRALIA'S PROBLEM WITH ALCOHOL

The majority of Queenslanders (80%) believe that Australia has a problem with excess drinking or alcohol abuse, 12% do not believe this, and the remaining 8% are unsure. This represents an increase from 2015 where 71% of Queenslanders believed that Australia had a problem with alcohol.

The majority of Queenslanders (80%) believe that more needs to be done to reduce the harm caused by alcohol-related illness, injury, death and related issues, 8% do not and 12% are unsure. This represents an increase from 2015 where 74% of Queenslanders believed that more needed to be done.

The majority of Queenslanders (71%) expect alcohol-related problems in Australia to remain the same or get worse over the next five to ten years, 17% expect a reduction in alcohol-related problems and 12% are unsure.

The majority of Queenslanders do not believe that governments (59%), alcohol companies (69%) and pubs and clubs (70%) are doing enough to address alcohol misuse. The proportions of Queenslanders who hold these beliefs have increased since 2015.

The table below provides an overview of Queenslanders attitudes on who is not doing enough to address alcohol misuse in 2015 and 2016.

	2015 (%)	2016 (%)
Governments are not doing enough to address alcohol misuse	51	59
Alcohol companies are not doing enough to address alcohol misuse	61	69
Pubs and clubs are not doing enough to address alcohol misuse	60	70

PERSPECTIVES ON ALCOHOL-RELATED POLICIES

Almost three quarters (74%) of Queenslanders support the late night trading measures recently announced by the Queensland Government (for all pubs, clubs and bars to stop serving alcohol at 2am or 3am) to reduce alcohol-related violence.

The majority of Queenslanders also support the introduction of the 13 alcohol policies to reduce violence (with support for each of the measures ranging from 59% to 89%).

Policies that received majority support include having more public transport options (85%) and introducing a closing time for pubs, clubs and bars of no later than 3am (84%). From 2015 to 2016 there has been an increase in support for placing a four drink limit on the number of drinks a person can purchase at one time after 10pm (from 59% to 68% respectively) and stopping the sale of shots after 10pm (from 52% to 61% respectively). The table below provides an overview of the level of support Queenslanders have for alcohol policies to reduce violence.

	SUPPORT (%)	DO NOT SUPPORT (%)	DON'T KNOW (%)
The recent Queensland Government announcement that all pubs, clubs and bars stop serving alcohol at 2am or 3am (depending on location) to reduce alcohol-related violence.	74	19	7
Closed-circuit television (CCTV) in and around licensed venues	89	5	6
Increasing penalties for people involved in alcohol-related violence	89	4	7
Increasing police numbers at times and places where alcohol-related violence is greater	88	4	8
More public transport options in areas where there are pubs, clubs and bars	85	6	9
A closing time for pubs, clubs and bars of no later than 3am	84	7	9
Introducing identification (ID) scanners	77	11	12
Stopping the sale of alcohol 30 minutes before closing time	76	15	9
Placing a limit of four drinks on the number of drinks a person can purchase at one time after 10pm	68	19	13
Introducing a 1am lockout for pubs, clubs and bars	67	20	13
Not allowing alcohol to be sold for less than \$1 per standard drink	64	19	17
Stopping the sale of alcohol and energy drinks after midnight	64	24	12
Stopping the sale of shots after 10pm	61	23	16
A closing time for bottle shops of no later than 10pm	59	35	6

Note that participants were able to select more than one response. Therefore the total may exceed 100%.

The majority of Queenslanders also support alcohol sponsorship not being allowed at sporting events (59%, which is an increase from 49% in 2015) and alcohol not being sold in supermarkets (69%)

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Almost one third of Queenslanders have been affected by alcohol-related violence (29%). One in six Queenslanders (16%) have been a victim of alcohol-related violence and nearly one in five (18%) have had a family member or friend who has been affected by alcohol-related violence.

Almost two thirds (65%) of Queenslanders consider the city or centre of town to be unsafe on a Saturday night, whereas 26% consider it to be safe and 9% are unsure. The proportion of Queenslanders who consider the city unsafe has increased, from 52% in 2015. The table below provides an overview of responses for all Queenslanders surveyed in 2015 and 2016.

	2015 (%)	2016 (%)
Very safe	1	1
Safe	32	25
Unsafe	35	45
Very unsafe	17	20
Don't know	15	9

Queenslanders who indicated that the city or centre of town was unsafe were then asked what factors made it unsafe. The vast majority (91%) indicated that people affected by alcohol made the city or town unsafe. This was greater than those who selected people affected by drugs (83%) and threatening behaviour (72%). The table below provides an overview of responses for Queenslanders who consider built up areas in the city or town centre to be unsafe.

	REASON FOR CONCERN
People affected by alcohol	91
People affected by drugs	83
Threatening behaviour	72
Large groups of people	47
Poor lighting	38
Other	5
Don't know	1

Note that participants were able to select more than one response. Therefore the total may exceed 100%.

About the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education

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. More than 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.

FARE is guided by the World Health Organization's (2010) *Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol* for stopping alcohol harms through population-based strategies, problem directed policies, and direct interventions.

If you would like to contribute to FARE's important work, call us on (02) 6122 8600, email info@fare.org.au or visit FARE's website: www.fare.org.au.