

MEDIA RELEASE

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**ALCOHOL AND DRUG FOUNDATION CONCERNED
BY RECOMMENDATIONS TO WEAKEN ALCOHOL REGULATIONS IN SYDNEY**

The [Alcohol and Drug Foundation](#) is concerned by [recommendations](#) made by the Joint Select Committee on Sydney's Night Time Economy, warning that weakening alcohol regulations would increase the risk of alcohol-related harms.

The Committee's recommendations that would apply for licensed venues in Sydney's CBD precinct include:

- Abolishing the 1.30am lockout
- Allowing service after 3am
- The extension of trading hours for the sale of takeaway alcohol
- Lifting a ban on the sale of high strength alcoholic drinks after midnight
- Removing restrictions around glass in late trading periods

Chief Executive Officer, Dr Erin Lalor AM, warned that softening alcohol regulations would be a dangerous move.

"A suite of measures introduced in Sydney in 2014 have led to reductions in alcohol-related harms such as assaults and injuries," Dr Lalor explained.

"Weakening alcohol regulations would risk undoing significant progress in building a healthier and safer Sydney," Dr Lalor said.

Dr Lalor also expressed disappointment around the recommendations to increase the availability of takeaway alcohol and allow licensed venues to continue service after 3am, including the sale of strong alcoholic drinks after midnight.

"Reducing trading hours is one of the most effective policies in reducing-alcohol-related harm," Dr Lalor remarked.

"Increasing the availability of alcohol often leads to increases in consumption and therefore increases in alcohol-related harms such as accidents, injuries and hospitalisations," Dr Lalor added.

For drug information or support, people can visit www.adf.org.au or call the Alcohol and Drug Foundation's DrugInfo line on 1300 85 85 84. The confidential service provides drug information and puts people in touch with relevant support and health services in their state and territory.

For media enquiries please call the Alcohol and Drug Foundation's media team on 0430 948 380 or email media@adf.org.au

About the Alcohol and Drug Foundation: Celebrating 60 years of service to the community, the Alcohol and Drug Foundation is one of Australia's leading bodies committed to preventing and minimising alcohol and other drug harms in communities around the nation. The Foundation reaches millions of Australians in local communities through sporting clubs, workplaces, health care settings and schools, offering educational information, drug and alcohol prevention programs and advocating for strong and healthy communities.