

MEDIA RELEASE

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**ALCOHOL AND DRUG FOUNDATION URGES
COMPROMISE ON SYDNEY'S ALCOHOL RULES**

The [Alcohol and Drug Foundation](#) is urging the New South Wales Government to avoid a rapid, uniform abolition of alcohol regulations in Sydney's CBD, warning the move may increase the risk of alcohol-related harms such as assaults and injuries.

The New South Wales Government today announced that the [following changes](#) will occur from mid-January next year.

- Removal of 1.30am last entry for all venues in the Sydney CBD Entertainment Precinct, including those on Oxford Street.
- Removal of restrictions on serving cocktails, shots and drinks in glass after midnight in this precinct.
- Extension of 'last drinks' at venues with good records in this precinct by 30 minutes.
- Extension of bottle shop opening hours across NSW until midnight from Monday to Saturday, with 11pm closing on Sunday.

Chief Executive Officer, Dr Erin Lalor AM said given the effectiveness of a suite of alcohol measures introduced in Sydney in 2014, the Alcohol and Drug Foundation would prefer they remain. However, in light of today's announcement, the Foundation is urging a staggered approach to lifting the restrictions.

"Simultaneously extending trading hours of venues and bottle shops, whilst removing bans on strong alcohol drinks after midnight, is too much too soon," Dr Lalor explained.

"A sensible and precautionary approach would be to lift the restrictions in stages over 12 months, with regular reviews during this time. This approach would be in the best interest of public safety," Dr Lalor said.

Dr Lalor added that the removal of alcohol regulations must be accompanied by investment in alcohol awareness campaigns and preventative programs, as alcohol consumption remains a leading cause of injury, accidents and death among Australians.

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.

ENDS

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.