

MEDIA RELEASE

11 December 2012

REVIEW OF WA LIQUOR CONTROL ACT – CAUTIOUS WELCOME

The decision by Racing and Gaming Minister Terry Waldron to establish a review of the Liquor Control Act has been welcomed, with a concern that it should give priority to the health and safety of the community.

Director of the McCusker Centre for Action on Alcohol and Youth, Professor Mike Daube, said, “We welcome the Minister’s action in establishing the Review of the Liquor Control Act, following his commitment at the beginning of the year”.

“This is important to ensure that WA has modern legislation that takes account of the needs of the community. We also welcome the Minister’s statement that the Review is expected to report by mid-2013.”

“While we welcome this Review, we are concerned that the terms of reference appear to place more emphasis on the interests of the liquor and hospitality industries than on the health and safety of the community. It is disappointing that there is no representation from the health or law enforcement areas. We also hope that the review will not be used by the Government as a rationale to defer making commitments to action that can reduce harms from alcohol”.

“Nonetheless, it is encouraging that issues such as secondary supply and alcohol advertising and marketing are included as issues for consideration. We hope that the Review will be able to provide recommendations that maintain a focus on ensuring public safety and reducing the toll of harms from risky and inappropriate drinking, particularly by young people”.

ENDS

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