



## Media Release

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### CALL FOR ELECTION COMMITMENT TO ACTION ON ALCOHOL SUPPORTED BY 70 WA GROUPS

Alcohol advertising would be removed from public transport and police given powers to monitor alcohol sales to minors under a plan supported by 70 WA groups to protect children and young people from the harmful effects of alcohol.

The WA Alcohol and Youth Action Coalition, chaired by Professor Fiona Stanley AC, brings together health and medical groups, emergency and law enforcement services, Aboriginal and youth focused groups and researchers with a common interest in preventing harm from alcohol to young people.

The release of the WA Election Platform by the Coalition follows a survey which showed that 91% of WA adults are concerned about alcohol use among young people, yet only 20% think governments are doing enough to prevent alcohol-related harm among young people.

Professor Fiona Stanley AC said, "The level of government action on alcohol to date has not matched the level of community concern. Ahead of the WA election, we call on all political parties to make a commitment to protecting children and young people from the harms of alcohol.

"As we learn more about how alcohol affects the developing brain and the extent of FASD across communities, the urgency in addressing the impacts of alcohol becomes even greater.

"Our comprehensive plan is based on the best evidence for how the far reaching and significant impacts of alcohol can be prevented", said Professor Stanley.

Australian Medical Association (WA) President Dr Andrew Miller said, "Each week in WA there are 10 deaths, 298 hospitalisations and 98 domestic violence assaults related to alcohol. From immediate impacts to long-term harms, doctors have to deal with the consequences. The WA community rightly believes that governments are not doing enough in an area where we know so much about what needs to be done."

"We do not need to accept such high levels of preventable harms. This election, we need alcohol policies that put the interests of WA children and young people first" Dr Miller said.

The platform is focused on six priority areas:

- Reduce young people's exposure to alcohol promotion;
- Reduce underage access to alcohol;
- Continue support for alcohol education programs;
- Ensure fair liquor licensing processes;
- Support WA to lead Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) prevention; and
- Consider measures to ensure that alcohol is not sold at unreasonably low prices.

McCusker Centre for Action on Alcohol and Youth Executive Officer, Julia Stafford said, “There is overwhelming public support for policies that will make a real difference in preventing harm from alcohol. WA political parties can be confident that effective action on alcohol will be supported by 70 health and community groups as well as the vast majority of the public.”

The Coalition is writing to all political parties asking them to commit to action in the six priority areas.

ENDS

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