



NOT ONE MORE



NSW political party responses to NAAPA Election Platform:

Not one more

March 2015

About NAAPA

NAAPA aims to reduce alcohol-related harms by ensuring that evidence-based solutions inform alcohol policy discussions in NSW and the ACT. NAAPA currently has 47 member organisations from a range of fields including health, community, law enforcement, emergency services and research organisations. The following are the NSW members of NAAPA:

- Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies (NADA)
- Pedestrian Council of Australia
- Darlinghurst Resident Action Group
- Salvation Army NSW
- Newcastle Community Drug Action Team (CDAT)
- Awabakal Newcastle Aboriginal Co Operative Ltd
- Police Association of NSW
- The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP)
- Australian Medical Association (AMA) NSW
- Hello Sunday Morning
- The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
- Byron Bay Youth Service
- Public Health Association of Australia NSW Branch
- Law Enforcement Against Prohibition
- Cancer Council NSW
- NSW Nurses and Midwives Association
- National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)
- The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP)
- The Potts Point and Kings Cross Heritage Conservation Society
- 2011 Residents Association
- Centre for Health Initiatives - University of Wollongong
- Bondi Beach Precinct
- Australasian College of Emergency Medicine
- Last Drinks @12
- Jewish House Limited
- Mental Health Association of NSW
- Inspire Foundation
- Bondi Residents Association
- Ted Noffs Foundation (NSW)
- Health Services Union (HSU)
- University of Newcastle
- St Vincent's Hospital
- Ulladulla Community Drug Action Team (CDAT)
- Australian Drug Foundation (ADF)
- Drug and Alcohol Research and Training Australia (DARTA)
- The Asia Pacific Centre for Crime Prevention Griffith University (Sydney)
- Thomas Kelly Youth Foundation

For further information about NAAPA, visit www.naapa.org.au or contact the NAAPA secretariat at info@naapa.org.au or 02 6122 8600.

Tally of responses from New South Wales Political Parties

The table below summarises the total number of responses to NAAPA's 15 alcohol policy questions categorised as 'supported in full', 'some action committed' or 'no commitment made'.

When examining policies that are 'supported in full' or have 'some action committed', the Christian Democratic Party receives a score of 15/15, followed by the Greens (14/15), the Coalition (11/15), Independent candidate Alex Greenwich (8/15) and Labor (7/15).

Labor were most likely to have 'no commitment made' to policies (8/15), followed by Alex Greenwich (7/15), the Coalition (4/15) and the Greens (1/15).



	Number of policies 'supported in full' or with 'some action committed'	Number of policies 'supported in full'	Number of policies with 'some action committed'	Number of policies with 'no commitment made'
	11	3	8	4
	7	3	4	8
	14	14	0	1
	15	15	0	0
	8	5	3	7

Table 1. Tally of responses from NSW political parties and independents

Approach

On 8 January 2015, the NSW/ACT Alcohol Policy Alliance (NAAPA) wrote to the leaders and party secretaries of six political parties and two independents contesting the New South Wales (NSW) state election in March 2015. Specifically, NAAPA wrote to the Liberal Party of Australia NSW Division (Liberals), NSW Nationals (Nationals), Australian Labor Party NSW Branch (Labor), The Greens NSW (Greens), Christian Democratic Party, Shooters and Fishers Party (Shooters and Fishers), Mr Alex Greenwich MP and Mr Greg Piper MP.

The letter asked recipients to respond to 15 questions on alcohol policy, based on the NAAPA Election Platform *Not one more*:

1. Will you/your party support the provision of \$600,000 over four years for domestic violence services and alcohol and other drug services to develop shared models of care?
2. Will you/your party support a ban on alcohol promotions on state property, such as public transport and bus stops?
3. Will you/your party support the introduction of saturation policies for liquor licenses and introduce regulations that consider the density of outlets in granting new liquor licenses?
4. Will you/your party support replacing the Liquor Promotion Guidelines with robust legislation and regulations on alcohol marketing?
5. Will you/your party support the provision of \$800,000 over four years to develop and fund a Community Defenders Office based on the successful Alcohol Community Action Project (ACAP) pilot?
6. Will you/your party support a review of the existing Community Impact Statement scheme?
7. Will you/your party support maintaining the ban on political donations from the alcohol industry?
8. Will you/your party support introducing a code of conduct on the engagement with the alcohol industry that reflects the World Health Organization's (WHO) position on industry involvement in policy development?
9. Will you/your party support the provision of \$10 million over four years to develop and fund an ongoing public education campaign on the health impacts of alcohol consumption?
10. Will you/your party support the provision of \$1.2 million over four years to establish a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) clinic at the Children's Hospital at Westmead in Sydney?
11. Will you/your party support the provision of \$2 million over four years to fund a brief intervention program for alcohol in primary care and emergency department settings?
12. Will you/your party support expanding the Magistrates Early Referral Into Treatment (MERIT) program to include alcohol?
13. Will you/your party support limiting extended trading to no later than 3am, introducing a 1am lockout and abolishing all existing 24 hour liquor licenses?
14. Will you/your party support the development of a state-wide alcohol harm prevention plan?
15. Will you/your party support mandating the collection of alcohol sales data across all of NSW?

Responses were received from five of the six parties and one Independent: the Coalition (a joint response was received from the Liberal and National parties), Labor, the Greens, Christian Democratic Party and Alex Greenwich MP.

The responses received by the political parties and Alex Greenwich are provided verbatim in this report (see Table 3) and categorised as being ‘supported in full’, having ‘some action committed’ and having ‘no commitment made’.

Responses were categorised as being ‘supported in full’ where it was clear that a commitment to the policy was made in full. Responses were categorised as having ‘some action committed’ where specific information was provided relating to the policy area, but the policy was not committed to in full. Answers were categorised as having ‘no commitment made’ where the response did not relate to the question, the response received indicated that the policy would not be implemented, or where no answer was received relating to the question.

A tally of responses received against each question is provided in Table 1. An overview of responses to each question is provided in Table 2 and verbatim responses received against each of the 15 questions is provided in Table 3.

To support the responses received, consideration was given to existing alcohol harm prevention policies and election commitments made during the 2015 NSW election campaign by the political parties or independents. Only the policies and election commitments that directly related to the questions posed by NAAPA were considered as part of this analysis.

Overview of responses from New South Wales political parties

Table 2 below provides an overview of the political parties' responses to the 15 alcohol policy questions posed by NAAPA. Questions that receive a '✓' indicates that the policy was 'supported in full'. Both symbols '✓/✗' indicates that there was 'some action committed', while a '✗' indicates that there was 'no commitment made' by the party.

					
1. Will you/your party support the provision of \$600,000 over four years for domestic violence services and alcohol and other drug services to develop shared models of care?	✓/✗	✗	✓	✓	✓/✗
2. Will you/your party support a ban on alcohol promotions on state property, such as public transport and bus stops?	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
3. Will you/your party support the introduction of saturation policies for liquor licenses and introduce regulations that consider the density of outlets in granting new liquor licenses?	✓/✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
4. Will you/your party support replacing the Liquor Promotion Guidelines with robust legislation and regulations on alcohol marketing?	✓/✗	✓/✗	✓	✓	✓
5. Will you/your party support the provision of \$800,000 over four years to develop and fund a Community Defenders Office based on the successful Alcohol Community Action Project (ACAP) pilot?	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
6. Will you/your party support a review of the existing Community Impact Statement scheme?	✓	✓/✗	✓	✓	✗
7. Will you/your party support maintaining the ban on political donations from the alcohol industry?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8. Will you/your party support introducing a code of conduct on the engagement with the alcohol industry that reflects the World Health Organization's (WHO) position on industry involvement in policy development?	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓/✗
9. Will you/your party support the provision of \$10 million over four years to develop and fund an ongoing public education campaign on the health impacts of alcohol consumption?	✓/✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
10. Will you/your party support the provision of \$1.2 million over four years to establish a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) clinic at the Children's Hospital at Westmead in Sydney?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗

11. Will you/your party support the provision of \$2 million over four years to fund a brief intervention program for alcohol in primary care and emergency department settings?	✓/✗	✓/✗	✓	✓	✗
12. Will you/your party support expanding the Magistrates Early Referral Into Treatment (MERIT) program to include alcohol?	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
13. Will you/your party support limiting extended trading to no later than 3am, introducing a 1am lockout and abolishing all existing 24 hour liquor licenses?	✓/✗	✓/✗	✗	✓	✓/✗
14. Will you/your party support the development of a state-wide alcohol harm prevention plan?	✓/✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
15. Will you/your party support mandating the collection of alcohol sales data across all of NSW?	✓/✗	✓	✓	✓	✗

Table 2: Overview of responses from NSW political parties and independents

Detailed responses from NSW political parties

Table 3 below details each of the political parties and independent's responses to the alcohol policy questions posed by NAAPA. Verbatim extracts from correspondence are provided against each of the questions. The responses are categorised as being 'supported in full', having 'some action committed' and having 'no commitment made'. Where a political party or an independent's alcohol harm prevention policies or election commitment relates directly to questions posed by NAAPA, these have also been included in the table.

1. Will you/your party support the provision of \$600,000 over four years for domestic violence services and alcohol and other drug services to developed shared models of care?

Some action committed

The Baird Government is committed to making sure that our vulnerable and people in need get the services that support them to stay safe and get them back on their feet as quickly as possible.





A 'no wrong door' approach, so that clients receive a consistent response no matter where they enter the service system, is a central part of the Baird Government's *Going Home Staying Home* reforms. The reforms deliver a system that is more flexible, more responsive and has a better balance between early intervention and crisis assistance.

There is multi-disciplinary and intensive support for people with complex needs, including those for women who have experienced domestic violence and are suffering substance abuse issues. For example;



- The *South Western Sydney Single Women Homelessness Accommodation & Support Service* delivered by the Women's Housing Company and its partner the Community Restorative Centre and the Womens and Girls Emergency Centre, will provide intensive support for women with complex needs including women experiencing domestic and family violence, mental health issues and substance abuse issues.
- The *Inner City Service for Women with Complex Needs* delivered by the B-Miles Foundation will provide specialised responses to women in need which address mental health issues and alcohol and other drug misuse issues.
- The *Crisis Support Service for People who are Chronically Homeless with Complex Needs* delivered by the Haymarket Foundation will target men and women who are experiencing chronic homelessness and who have complex needs. It will provide crisis assistance, including an eight-bed intoxicated persons unit for women and provide multi-disciplinary and intensive responses appropriate to address their complex issues.

For the first time, specialist homelessness services right across NSW will have uniform quality standards. They will have client charters that make it clear that you can expect to be accommodated in a safe environment, to have culturally appropriate services, and to have your views and life choices respected.

	<p>No commitment made</p> <p>NSW Labor considers reducing domestic violence to be an extremely high priority and a Labor Government will look at all sensible approaches to reduce domestic violence and support victims and survivors of domestic violence.</p> <p>A Labor Government will create specialist Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Courts, with a trial locations in Sydney, the Hunter and the Illawarra. This will create a streamlined and expedited court network with dedicated judges to deal specifically with domestic violence and sexual assault cases and reduce the trauma experienced by the victim. Specially trained staff will offer greater sensitivity to the needs of the victim, and features such as separate, specially designed waiting rooms, entrances and exits will ensure the safety and privacy of victims.</p>
	<p>Supported in full</p> <p>Yes. Preventative and educative services like these are strongly supported by the Greens NSW. They are effective in reducing the human toll of alcohol abuse.</p>
	<p>Supported in full</p> <p>Yes.</p>
	<p>Some action committed</p> <p>Addressing alcohol related violence must include more hidden problems such as domestic and family violence.</p>

2. Will you/your party support a ban on alcohol promotions on state property, such as public transport and bus stops?

No commitment made



Transport for NSW has written into the contracts of transport providers that any advertising on their fleet or other infrastructure must comply with codes of conduct, codes of ethics and codes of the Advertising Standards Bureau. This regulation of alcohol advertising ensures consistency between NSW Government owned and managed assets such as buses, and those outside its control, such as bus stops – which are council-owned, roadside billboards or taxis.

Transport for NSW pro-actively advertises on transport networks its own alcohol harm advertising campaigns, such as the Plan B drink-driving campaign. Other agencies actively utilise advertising space for public health campaigns such as the alcohol-fuelled violence and responsible drinking (DrinkWise) campaigns. These campaigns are strongly supported by the Baird Government.

No commitment made



A NSW Labor Government will carefully consider all sensible proposals in regard to alcohol promotions. All advertising should be appropriate and not encourage the abuse of alcohol.

Supported in full



Yes. The Greens NSW current policy calls for a ban on advertising promotions for alcohol that encourage harmful and or underage drinking as well as the sponsorship and advertising of alcohol of sporting events, teams and venues.

Alcohol advertising on state property, such as public transport and bus stops, is unnecessary and dangerous. It presents too many mixed messages from government.

Public transport is used by children, the elderly and the socio-economically disadvantaged, all of whom are likely to suffer the most harm from alcohol abuse.

Our policy also explicitly states that there must be public and transparent participation into any review of alcohol advertising and promotions.

Supported in full



Yes. I have introduced a Bill to prohibit alcohol advertising.

Supported in full



...I strongly support NAAPA proposals to restrict marketing and promotion of alcohol and to reduce the industry's influence on decision makers.

3. Will you/your party support the introduction of saturation policies for liquor licenses and introduce regulations that consider the density of outlets in granting new liquor licenses?

Some action committed

The State's liquor laws facilitate consideration of liquor outlet density, which is taken into account by the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority when determining higher risk licensing proposals under statutory obligations to consider social impact.



From March 2015, radial density is a risk factor included in the Environment and Venue Assessment Tool (referred to as EVAT) which will be used to inform submissions made by the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing on relevant liquor licence applications across NSW.

The Baird Government's precinct approach to liquor regulatory intervention in areas of high risk enables consideration of the density harm relationship for a specific area which allows a more thorough understanding of the characteristics and potential for diverse venue offerings to have a mitigating effect on density. These issues have informed the Government's decision to extend the operation of a freeze on high risk liquor licence applications in the Sydney CBD and Kings Cross precincts until February 2016.

No commitment made



A NSW Labor Government will carefully consider all sensible proposals to reduce alcohol-related violence. Alcohol marketing should always be appropriate and not encourage the abuse of alcohol.

NSW Labor is committed to evidence based policy, which is why we support the collection of alcohol sales data. This will provide useful information on alcohol consumption and harms associated with alcohol. This information will enable researchers and policy makers to develop, implement and track the progress of evidence based alcohol policies.

Supported in full



Yes. The Greens have worked with communities across the state to stop the introduction of new licenses into communities that with high densities of outlets and high levels of violence.

We believe that policies should be in place that recognise that once packaged liquor outlet densities reach a critical levels, domestic violence will increase, particularly in disadvantaged areas. The granting of new licences for venues should also respond to similar correlations between street violence and licensed venue density.

Greens policy calls for the licensing laws to be reformed with respect to changes in the opening hours and density of outlets to put the onus on licensees to prove that such changes will not adversely affect public health and safety.

For bottle shops or "packaged liquor outlets", licence fees should be set by alcohol-related harm and violence statistics for the outlet's area, including police reports and hospital admittance numbers. High levels of domestic violence or existing bottle-shop density should preclude new applications or the expansion of existing stores.



Supported in full

Yes.



Supported in full

Many of the measures I have pushed are consistent with the NAAPA's policy. My advocacy got the liquor freeze extended in Kings Cross and on Oxford Street and I continue to call for new powers to allow consent authorities to refuse licence applications based on an area already having reached saturation.

Alcohol associated violence got out of hand because previous governments allowed 24-hour venues to proliferate in areas like Kings Cross while not providing needed infrastructure like transport, making these locations magnets for violence and conflict. Development and liquor legislation did not provide for refusal based on saturation or concentration of liquor outlets.

4. Will you/your party support replacing the Liquor Promotion Guidelines with robust legislation and regulations on alcohol marketing?



Some action committed

The Baird Government's response to the 2013 Liquor Act review in August 2014 committed to review the Liquor Promotion Guidelines issued by the Secretary of NSW Trade & Investment every three years from 2016. Future regulatory controls applying to liquor promotions will be considered as part of that review.



Some action committed

A NSW Labor Government will review the Liquor Promotion Guidelines. The Liberal Government failed to consult widely. Strict guidelines proposed for the sale of alcohol in NSW were watered down by the Liberal Government to remove bans on the use of celebrities who appeal to under-18s in promotions and mention of specific events targeting women after intense lobbying from the industry.



Supported in full

Yes. The Greens NSW have worked hard to expose the NSW government's cosy relationship with the liquor industry that resulted in liquor promotion guidelines that failed to respond to the evidence of harms that are caused. We have used parliament and the media to demonstrate the current failure of the Liquor Promotion Guidelines and the Liberals and Nationals' refusal to listen to expert advice to strengthen alcohol marketing regulations.



Supported in full

Yes. I have introduced a Bill to prohibit alcohol advertising.



Supported in full

...I strongly support NAAPA proposals to restrict marketing and promotion of alcohol and to reduce the industry's influence on decision makers.

5. Will you/your party support the provision of \$800,000 over four years to develop and fund a Community Defenders Office based on the successful Alcohol Community Action Project (ACAP) pilot?



No commitment made

The Baird Government notes that NAAPA have advocated for a Community Defenders Office modelled on the EDO, funded through the introduction of an annual liquor licensing fee. This is not government policy.



No commitment made

A NSW Labor Government will carefully consider all sensible proposals to reduce alcohol-related violence.



Supported in full

Yes. A Community Defenders Office is an excellent strategy to respond to the lack of support for local residents and small businesses struggling to fend off unacceptable proposals for new outlets against the far more powerful and heavily resourced alcohol lobby and supermarket giants.

The Greens have assisted many communities around NSW to prepare their case, write submissions and attract media attention. While we continue to do this work, a CDO would build capacity of residents and communities to stand up for a safe and healthy local environment.

It would go some way to addressing the imbalance in power and resources between communities and the large liquor chains they are forced to fend off.



Supported in full

Yes.



No commitment made

No comment received.

6. Will you/your party support a review of the existing Community Impact Statement scheme?



Supported in full

A re-elected Baird Government, through the Department of Planning and Environment and the Office of Liquor Gaming and Racing, will develop a co-ordinated planning and liquor licensing model, which will include reviewing the operation of the community impact statement process.



Some action committed

The Community Impact Statement is designed to inform the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority of the impact that granting an application will have on the local community.

NSW Labor believes in greater engagement with the local community and any consultation should include the local community, police and other emergency services, as well as local hospitals.



Supported in full

Yes. The current CIS scheme is deeply flawed. It is biased towards the applicant who provides the majority of analysis of impacts. The system creates perverse incentives to understand the impacts, with little opportunity to independently check the data.

Communities are given little opportunity to engage with the process and what little input they can have is usually ignored.

The scheme is unfair to communities and produces unreliable and compromised results that can result in increasing levels of violence and social harm.



Supported in full

Yes.



No commitment made

No comment received.

7. Will you/your party support maintaining the ban on political donations from the alcohol industry?

Supported in full



The Baird Government has recently responded to the Final Report from the Expert Panel on Political Donations chaired by Kerry Schott.

The Schott report recommended that the ban on political donations from prohibited donors (property developers and liquor, gambling and tobacco industry business entities) be retained for the time being, subject to:

- a) the High Court's decision in *McCloy v New South Wales*; and
- b) the introduction of caps on political donations for local government.

In its response, the Baird Government accepted this recommendation in principle and agreed with the Expert Panel's view that any changes should await the High Court's decision on whether the ban on political donations from prohibited donors is constitutionally valid.

Supported in full



The ban on political donations came into effect under the Keneally Labor Government and NSW Labor has no plan to change them. We challenge the Liberals and Nationals to follow suit.

Supported in full



Yes. It was a Greens amendment to the 2010 changes to the electoral funding and donation laws that banned the alcohol industry from making donations to political parties and candidates. We have campaigned vigorously since then to protect the ban from political and legal challenges.

We have repeatedly called on Premier Mike Baird to use all of the resources at his disposal to defend the ban in the current High Court challenge mounted by former Newcastle Lord Mayor Jeff McCloy. We also wrote to all political parties to encourage them to join the Greens in committing to refuse any donations from currently prohibited donors including the alcohol industry, in the event that the High Court challenge is successful.

Supported in full



Yes.

Supported in full



My submission on political donations reform supported the existing ban on donations from the liquor industry and I strongly support NAAPA proposals to restrict marketing and promotion of alcohol and to reduce the industry's influence on decision makers. I agree that taxation and pricing need to be reformed to ensure industry helps pay for community impacts.

8. Will you/your party support introducing a code of conduct on the engagement with the alcohol industry that reflects the World Health Organization's (WHO) position on industry involvement in policy development?



No commitment made

The Baird Government consults broadly with the public and stakeholders on a regular basis when shaping alcohol policy.



No commitment made

A NSW Labor Government will carefully consider all sensible proposals to reduce alcohol-related violence.



Supported in full

Yes. The Greens succeeded in using the parliamentary call for papers process to expose the NSW government's complicit relationship with the alcohol industry in writing the liquor promotion guidelines.

The lesson learned from the debate that ensued from the release of those documents was that the industry had a major role in influencing governments in the writing of policy and law that affects it.

It also became clear that the industry had no commitment for evidence and no respect for independent research.



Supported in full

Yes.



Some action committed

My submission on political donations reform supported the existing ban on donations from the liquor industry and I strongly support NAAPA proposals to restrict marketing and promotion of alcohol and to reduce the industry's influence on decision makers. I agree that taxation and pricing need to be reformed to ensure industry helps pay for community impacts.

9. Will you/your party support the provision of \$10 million over four years to develop and fund an ongoing public education campaign on the health impacts of alcohol consumption?

Some action committed

The NSW Ministry of Health have developed a number of strategies, programs and policies for alcohol and other drug prevention and harm minimisation including:



- Campaigns and resources targeting excessive alcohol consumption and promoting responsible drinking. These include the *What are you doing to yourself?* and the *Know When to Say When* campaign;
- The 'yourroom' website (www.yourroom.com.au) which provides a range of information for the public on alcohol and other drugs, including how they can affect people and how to access help and support; and
- Community Drug Action Teams delivering education information and skills building programs to their local communities to prevent and reduce alcohol misuse and related harms



No commitment made

A NSW Labor Government will carefully consider all sensible proposals to reduce alcohol-related violence.



Supported in full

Yes. The Greens strongly support education campaigns on the impacts of alcohol consumption. We strongly opposed the NSW Liberals and Nationals decision to cut the Drug and Alcohol Unit in the Department of Education and Communities in 2013. Specialist support, programs and materials were lost, placing more pressure on schools to deliver content in this area on their own. We support the reinstatement of that unit. We would support additional funding for new public education campaigns.



Supported in full

Yes.



Supported in full

I also support proposals for increased funding for health and education campaigns and research.

10. Will you/your party support the provision of \$1.2 million over four years to establish a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) clinic at the Children’s Hospital at Westmead in Sydney?

Supported in full

As NAAPA is aware, FASD and its associated brain injury and birth defects are costly to families and communities and to the health, education and justice systems – FASD is also highly preventable.



A re-elected Baird Government will fund a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder clinic at Westmead Hospital. As you may be aware, this was announced by the Health Minister at the Public Health Association Debate at the University of Sydney on 25 February. The Baird Government is proud of this historic commitment.

On 16 March 2015, the Government formally announced that “\$2.3 million will be invested to create a Centre for the Prevention of Harm to Children and Adolescents from Drugs and Alcohol at The Children’s Hospital, Westmead.” This funding and new centre will incorporate a dedicated FASD clinic.

Supported in full



A NSW Labor Government will carefully consider all sensible proposals to reduce FASD and support those with FASD.

On 5 March 2015, NSW Labor announced that they would “set aside \$1.2 million to secure the future of the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) diagnostic clinic at Westmead”

Supported in full



Yes. FASD is an entirely preventable disease and every effort should be made to reduce its incidence. Reducing the dangerous consumption of alcohol during pregnancy is a critical public health measure.

Supported in full



Yes.

No commitment made



No comment received.

11. Will you/your party support the provision of \$2 million over four years to fund a brief intervention program for alcohol in primary care and emergency department settings?

Some action committed



NSW Health offers a range of intervention programs for alcohol in Emergency Department settings and support for primary care. Hospital Drug and Alcohol Consultation Liaison Services (HDACL) offer direct interventions for patients as well as capacity building for Emergency Department and other hospital staff to improve rates of screening and identification of drug and alcohol issues, and improve rates of brief interventions and referral for those patients requiring more intensive intervention and treatment.

Withdrawal management services are available across NSW Health in inpatient, residential or outpatient settings. Withdrawal management can occur in a designated detoxification unit in the public, NGO or private sector, in a designated or general hospital bed, or in a general practice setting.

NSW Health is implementing the Drug and Alcohol Community Health Outpatient Care project which involves improved electronic medical records and standardised clinical redesign. This is designed to improve patient safety and care co-ordination and includes more streamlined discharge and transfer of care processes, including information being provided directly to General Practitioners to assist in the management and after care of drug and alcohol clients.

Some action committed



A NSW Labor Government will carefully consider all sensible proposals to improve healthcare and support healthcare workers dealing with alcohol-related harm and disease.

Supported in full



Yes. The low rate of preventative intervention in problem drinking is imposing an avoidable economic cost on the community and denies problem drinkers the opportunity to reduce their consumption or receive treatment. Spending \$2million on screening patients in primary and emergency care and offering intervention for those showing up as problem consumers would be cost effective investment for the community and benefit to numerous individuals.

Supported in full



Yes.

No commitment made



No comment received.

12. Will you/your party support expanding the Magistrates Early Referral Into Treatment (MERIT) program to include alcohol?

No commitment made



As NAAPA is aware, MERIT is a program available in most Local Courts in New South Wales that provides the opportunity for adult defendants with substance abuse problems to work, on a voluntary basis, towards rehabilitation as part of the bail process.

Alcohol treatment is currently available in 7 Local Courts in NSW (Orange, Bathurst, Dubbo, Wellington, Broken Hill, Wilcannia, and Coffs Harbour). Alcohol was the main drug of concern for 11.9% of participants in the MERIT program in the 2013-14 financial year. MERIT is funded by the Commonwealth Government through the Australian Health Care Agreement. The funding is administered by NSW Health, with the majority being distributed to Local Health Districts. Any further expansion of the scheme would require further Commonwealth funding.

No commitment made



A NSW Labor Government will carefully consider all sensible proposals to improve healthcare and support healthcare workers dealing with alcohol-related harm and disease.

Supported in full



Yes. The Magistrates Early Referral Into Treatment (MERIT) program has proven highly effective for persons with illegal substance use problems, in particular by allowing the separation of legal health related issues. There are good reasons to believe that the same approach would be effective with persons with alcohol abuse problems.

Supported in full



Yes.

No commitment made



No comment received.

13. Will you/your party support limiting extended trading to no later than 3am, introducing a 1am lockout and abolishing all existing 24 hour liquor licenses?

Some action committed



The Baird Government has developed a framework that enables targeted action to be taken in areas experiencing high levels of alcohol-related harm by applying precinct measures under the liquor laws. This precinct approach has been adopted in the Sydney CBD and Kings Cross precincts, where 1.30am lock out and 3am cease alcohol service requirements have been imposed. The future application of these types of measures will be informed by a review of the Sydney CBD and Kings Cross lock out and cease service requirements in February 2016.

Some action committed



NSW Labor committed to 1am lockouts and 3am last drinks in Kings Cross and the Sydney CBD to combat alcohol related violence in early 2014. This forced the Liberal Government to follow suit. NSW Labor has no plans to change the current system.

No commitment made



It is Greens policy that licencing limitations should be examined on the basis of locally relevant factors. Instead of a blanket approach, decisions regarding law reform should account for the diversity in factors that affect liquor sales, consumption and harms across NSW.

Greens policy also provides for the establishment of Local Alcohol Management Plans developed in collaboration between local councils and the community and enforceable by the Director General. Local Action Management Plans may contain any measures that relate to restrictions on the hours of sale of alcohol, hours of operations for venues, new licence freezes, transportation measures, data collection and community education.

The Greens policy states that where there is no Local Action Management Plan, communities should be supported to request the implementation of an alcohol licencing restriction trial if a demonstrated need exists and there is community support.

The Greens believe that the health and safety of the local community, the police, paramedics, nurses and doctors is paramount when developing strategies to deal with people affected by drugs and alcohol. However policies to reduce harm caused by alcohol and other drugs must be based in evidence and not infringe unnecessarily on the rights of ordinary citizens.

Supported in full



Yes.

Some action committed

There is strong evidence that earlier closing times reduce alcohol-related violence and anti-social behaviour and I strongly support an end to 24 hour trading and changes to the law that require alcohol service to cease at 3.00am in inner city hotspots.



While lockouts are a useful tool in penalising poorly managed venues, it is not clear that across the board lockouts improve safety, with limited research producing ambiguous results. Because lockouts have generally been introduced with other measures such as earlier cessation of service, drink purchase limits and additional policing resources, it is difficult to identify which has had an effect. I hope data from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research will clarify which measures are working so that we can improve the laws.

I am also concerned that imposing lockouts on all venues in an area favours larger venues with late closures over smaller, more civilised venues that close earlier. Constituents tell me that the 1.30am lockouts are having detrimental and unintended impacts on inner city night life, particularly entertainment including live music and performance venues that provide alternatives to binge drinking, and making well managed smaller venues including restaurants unviable. Our laws should encourage venues that help civilise the night time scene and support more than late night beer barns and gambling venues.

14. Will you/your party support the development of a state-wide alcohol harm prevention plan?

Some action committed

As stated previously the NSW Ministry of Health have developed a number of strategies, programs and policies for alcohol and other drug prevention and harm minimisation.



The NSW Ministry of Health is also currently in the process of developing a Strategic Plan for drug and alcohol services, which will include a strong focus on preventative health matters in relation to drug and alcohol harm.

There has been consultation across government, including the Population and Public Health Division of NSW Health, as well as with NGO's and peak bodies such as NADA, which is a member organisation of NAAPA. The Plan will be delivered in 2015 and will assist in the direction of service purchasing in a coordinated and strategic manner.

No commitment made



A NSW Labor Government will carefully consider all sensible proposals to reduce alcohol-related violence.

Supported in full



Yes. Addressing the level of harm associated with alcohol abuse across the range of portfolios rates that interact with the regulation of alcohol can only be successfully achieved with a state wide plan. The Greens believe that the development of this plan should be done openly and transparently with full community involvement to avoid the industry biasing the outcomes towards their profit objectives.

Supported in full



Yes.

No commitment made



No comment received.

15. Will you/your party support mandating the collection of alcohol sales data across all of NSW?






	<p>Some action committed</p>	<p>The mandatory collection of alcohol sales data in NSW is an issue that is currently being considered by the Government. A decision would be influenced by the outcome of the retail alcohol sales data collection in Kings Cross that commenced in January 2014.</p>
	<p>Supported in full</p>	<p>NSW Labor supports the collection of data. Alcohol sales data allows the Government to assess the proportion of alcohol sold at off-trade locations compared to on-trade, and to map alcohol sales according to the suburb, and potentially by licensed premise. This allows for a greater understanding of the true extend of alcohol sales and consumption in NSW.</p> <p>The NSW Labor Alcohol Policy, Drink Smart, Home Safe states that NSW Labor will “Mandate the collection and reporting of alcohol sales data to allow the Government to map alcohol sales by suburb to understand the true extent of alcohol related harm in NSW.”</p>
	<p>Supported in full</p>	<p>Yes. Mandating the collection of alcohol sales data across NSW is critical to the development of evidence-based policy.</p>
	<p>Supported in full</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
	<p>No commitment made</p>	<p><i>No comment received.</i></p>

Table 3: Detailed responses from NSW political parties and independents

Analysis of responses from New South Wales political parties

In 2014, the NSW Parliament demonstrated leadership in implementing measures to reduce alcohol-related violence. These measures included the development of a Sydney CBD precinct with 3am last drinks, a 1.30am lockout and a freeze on new liquor licenses. State-wide measures were also introduced, including a 10pm close for takeaway alcohol sales and the introduction of risk-based licensing fees. These policies provide the foundation for the systemic change needed to keep communities safe, healthy and free from alcohol harms.

This analysis focuses on what each of the political parties and independents will commit to in the next term to further prevent alcohol harms in NSW.

When examining policies that are either 'supported in full' or had 'some action committed', the Christian Democratic Party (CDP) received a score of 15/15, followed by the Greens (14/15), the Coalition (11/15), Alex Greenwich (8/15) and Labor (7/15).

When only examining policies that are 'supported in full', the CDP received a score of 15/15, followed by the Greens (14/15), Alex Greenwich (5/15), Labor and the Coalition (both 3/15).

Labor were most likely to have had 'no commitment made' to policies (7/15), followed by Alex Greenwich (8/15), the Coalition (4/15) and the Greens (1/15).

When examining the policy options supported, only one policy was 'supported in full' by all political parties and independent candidate Alex Greenwich. This policy was maintaining the ban on political donations from the alcohol industry. All political representatives, except Alex Greenwich, 'supported in full' funding for a dedicated Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Clinic. Alex Greenwich did not comment on this policy in his response.

Summary of the major party responses

Both major parties 'supported in full' three policies. The first of these was funding for a dedicated FASD Clinic. On 16 March 2015 the Hon Jillian Skinner MP, Minister for Health announced that: "if the Baird Government is re-elected on March 28, \$2.3 million will be invested to create a *Centre for the Prevention of Harm to Children and Adolescents from Drugs and Alcohol* at The Children's Hospital, Westmead."¹ The media release further outlined that this new *Centre for the Prevention of Harm to Children and Adolescents from Drugs and Alcohol* will incorporate the current FASD pilot clinic "to diagnose and support children exposed to alcohol in-utero."² On 5 March 2015 the Hon Sophie Cotsis MLC, Shadow Minister for Mental Health and Shadow Minister for Women announced dedicated funding to a FASD Clinic. The media release indicated that: "A Foley Labor Government will set aside \$1.2 million to secure the future of the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) diagnostic clinic at Westmead – giving young children suffering from FASD the best start in life, Shadow Minister for the Status of Women Sophie Cotsis announced at the NSW ACT Alcohol Policy Alliance Election Forum today."³

Both major parties also ‘supported in full’ maintaining the ban on political donations from the alcohol industry. Labor stated: “The ban on political donations came into effect under the Keneally Labor Government and NSW Labor has no plan to change them. We challenge the Liberals and Nationals to follow suit.” The Coalition indicated that “The Baird Government has recently responded to the Final Report from the Expert Panel on Political Donations chaired by Kerry Schott... In its response, the Baird Government... agreed with the Expert Panel’s view that any changes should await the High Court’s decision on whether the ban on political donations from prohibited donors is constitutionally valid.”

The Coalition also ‘supported in full’ a review of the Community Impact Scheme (CIS), indicating that: “A re-elected Baird Government, through the Department of Planning and Environment and the Office of Liquor Gaming and Racing, will develop a co-ordinated planning and liquor licensing model, which will include reviewing the operation of the community impact statement process.” Labor had ‘some action committed’ on this policy, stating that: “The Community Impact Statement is designed to inform the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority of the impact that granting an application will have on the local community. NSW Labor believes in greater engagement with the local community and any consultation should include the local community, police and other emergency services, as well as local hospitals.”

Labor also ‘supported in full’ mandating the collection of alcohol sales data. This position is outlined in Labor’s alcohol policy, *Drink Smart Home Safe*, which indicates that a Labor Government will “Mandate the collection and reporting of alcohol sales data to allow the Government to map alcohol sales by suburb to understand the true extent of alcohol related harm in NSW.”⁴ The Coalition had ‘some action committed’ on this policy stating that: “The mandatory collection of alcohol sales data in NSW is an issue that is currently being considered by the Government. A decision would be influenced by the outcome of the retail alcohol sales data collection in Kings Cross that commenced in January 2014.” NSW is currently one of only three Australian states or territories (along with South Australia and Tasmania) that do not collect wholesale alcohol sales data.

Both the Coalition and Labor had ‘some action committed’ to three common policies. The first of these policies was replacing the Liquor Promotion Guidelines with robust regulations on alcohol marketing, with both parties committing to reviewing the current Liquor Promotion Guidelines but not clarifying if further regulations would be considered. The second of these policies was providing funding of \$2 million for a brief intervention program for alcohol in primary care and emergency department settings, with the Coalition outlining a range of existing programs that are considered brief interventions, and Labor indicating they would consider proposals to support healthcare workers dealing with alcohol harms. While both of these responses acknowledge the need for brief interventions, neither party provided detail on how they would improve or commit funding to enhance brief interventions in the primary care or emergency department settings.

The remaining policy that both major parties had ‘some action committed’ was the introduction of 3am close, 1.30am lockouts and abolition of 24 hour liquor licenses. The Coalition outlined their current commitment to reducing alcohol-related violence indicating that: “The Baird Government has developed

a framework that enables targeted action in areas experiencing high levels of alcohol-related harm by applying precinct measures under the liquor laws. This precinct approach has been adopted in the Sydney CBD and Kings Cross precincts, where 1.30am lock out and 3am cease alcohol service requirements have been imposed. The future application of these types of measures will be informed by a review of the Sydney CBD and Kings Cross lock out and cease service requirements in February 2016.” Labor also outlined their position on this policy by stating: “NSW Labor committed to 1am lockouts and 3am last drinks in Kings Cross and the Sydney CBD to combat alcohol related violence in early 2014. This forced the Liberal Government to follow suit. NSW Labor has no plans to change the current system.”

While these responses confirm that both parties are committed to these measures remaining in place for the two full years, neither committed to expanding these conditions further or commented on 24 hour liquor licenses. Alex Greenwich was the only political respondent to address the issue of 24 hour liquor licenses, indicating that: “There is strong evidence that earlier closing times reduce alcohol-related violence and anti-social behaviour and I strongly support an end to 24 hour trading and changes to the law that require alcohol service to cease at 3.00am in inner city hotspots.”

There were four policies where both major parties were classified as having ‘no commitment made’. The first of these was supporting a ban of alcohol promotions on state and territory property, such as on public transport and at bus stops. The Coalition outlined the current situation for advertising on public property and highlighted that the government also promotes a range of alcohol harm prevention campaigns, including both government funded and alcohol industry campaigns. Labor stated that all alcohol advertising must be appropriate and not encourage alcohol misuse.

The second policy where there was ‘no commitment made’ was funding for a Community Defenders Office (CDO), based on the Alcohol Community Action Project (ACAP). In their response the Coalition indicated that they do not support the policy, and Labor responded by stating that they will consider all sensible proposals to reduce alcohol-related violence. Labor’s response did not refer to the CDO or its role which is to increase community engagement and provide assistance to communities when engaging the liquor regulation and planning systems.

The final two policies where there was ‘no commitment made’ were developing a code of conduct on engagement with the alcohol industry and expanding the Magistrates Early Referral Into Treatment (MERIT) program. The Coalition noted that the MERIT program is funded through the Commonwealth Government’s Australian Health Care Agreement and administered by NSW Health; however determining how many local courts include alcohol as part of the MERIT program is the responsibility of the NSW Government.

When examining the remaining differences between the major party responses, the Coalition had ‘some action committed’ to four policies where Labor had ‘no commitment made’. These policies included the funding for a model of care for domestic violence services and alcohol and other drug services, introducing saturation policies for liquor licenses and regulations that consider outlet density, funding for a public education campaign about the health impacts of alcohol consumption and developing a state-wide alcohol harm prevention plan.

References

¹ Jillian Skinner, Minister for Health (2015) *Media release: Baird Government commits \$2.3 million to tackle Fetal Alcohol Abuse*. Sydney, 16 March

² Ibid.

³ Luke Foley and Labor (2015) *Media release: NSW Labor to secure future of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Clinic*. Deputy Labor Leader Linda Burney, Shadow Health Minister Walt Secord, Shadow Minister for the Status of Women Sophie Cotsis. Sydney, 5 March

⁴ NSW Labor (2013) *Drink Smart Home Safe*. NSW Labor, Sydney.

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