The Honourable Marlene Kairouz  
Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation  
Level 26 121 Exhibition Street  
Melbourne 3000

16 December 2016

Dear Minister,

Ambulance Employees Australia Victoria (AEAV) would like to thank the Victorian Government for the opportunity to make a submission regarding the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998 (Vic).

The AEAV is a division of United Voice Victoria and represents 3, 500 members engaged in both the public and private ambulance industries in Victoria.

The AEAV believes that there should be tighter control regarding the availability of alcohol in the community and that the regulations governing its supply ought to be more stringently enforced. Victoria Police currently do not have sufficient resources required to enforce the regulations and this ought to be addressed.

Further, there needs to be a greater emphasis on the responsible serving of alcohol in Victoria with a focus on the prevalence of underage drinking and the serving of intoxicated patrons at licensed facilities.

Over the past five years reported incidents involving actual and potential physical assaults, verbal abuse/threats and the use of objects or weapons against Paramedics have increased from 285 incidents in 2010/2011 up to 341 in 2014/2015. Alcohol is a factor in a number of these events as the individuals involved are often both drug and alcohol affected.

A culture of responsible alcohol consumption in the community will provide Victorian paramedics with a safer working environment and this is something we urge the Victorian government to work towards.

I am happy to discuss the above further if you require.

Yours sincerely,

Steve McGhie  
General Secretary