16th December, 2016

The Hon Marlene Kairouz MP
Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation
Level 26
121 Exhibition Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Minister,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the review of the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998 (Victoria).

This Review provides a valuable opportunity for the Victorian Government to implement evidence-based reforms to reduce alcohol harm.

As an organisation, Turning Point offers its support to the submission prepared by the Alcohol Policy Coalition (APC). APC is a collaboration of health and allied agencies who share a concern about the level of alcohol misuse and the associated health and social consequences for the community.

Too many people are affected by alcohol harm in Victoria through assault,\textsuperscript{i,ii} domestic violence,\textsuperscript{iii} road crashes,\textsuperscript{iv} and child maltreatment.\textsuperscript{v,vi,\textsuperscript{vii}} In 2012-13, there were 7,744 emergency department presentations in Victoria in which alcohol was identified as a contributing factor. The rate of such presentations have increased by 58.6 per cent since 2003-04, from 8.7 per 100,000 to 13.8 per 100,000.\textsuperscript{viii}

Turning Point is the leading national centre across Australia in the field of alcohol and drug treatment, research and education. This unique service model ensures that research informs clinical practice and vice versa, resulting in a best practice environment. As you would be aware, Turning Point collects, analyses and reports on key alcohol-related data from both a population-health perspective and treatment and systems perspective. Turning Point led the latest Australian-based study examining alcohol-related burden across the country in terms of both mortality and hospitalisation indicators. In addition, Turning Point through its internationally unique ‘Ambo Project’ examines patterns of drug use and harm in Victoria and nationally, and provides this information to policy makers and workers within the alcohol and drug and mental health fields. Key information from these data sources is now rapidly disseminated and available via aodstats and amboaodstats, providing Victorians and those further abroad with the latest information on alcohol-related harms and their impact on the community.
Thank you once again for the opportunity to raise these important issues with you.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Professor Dan Lubman
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