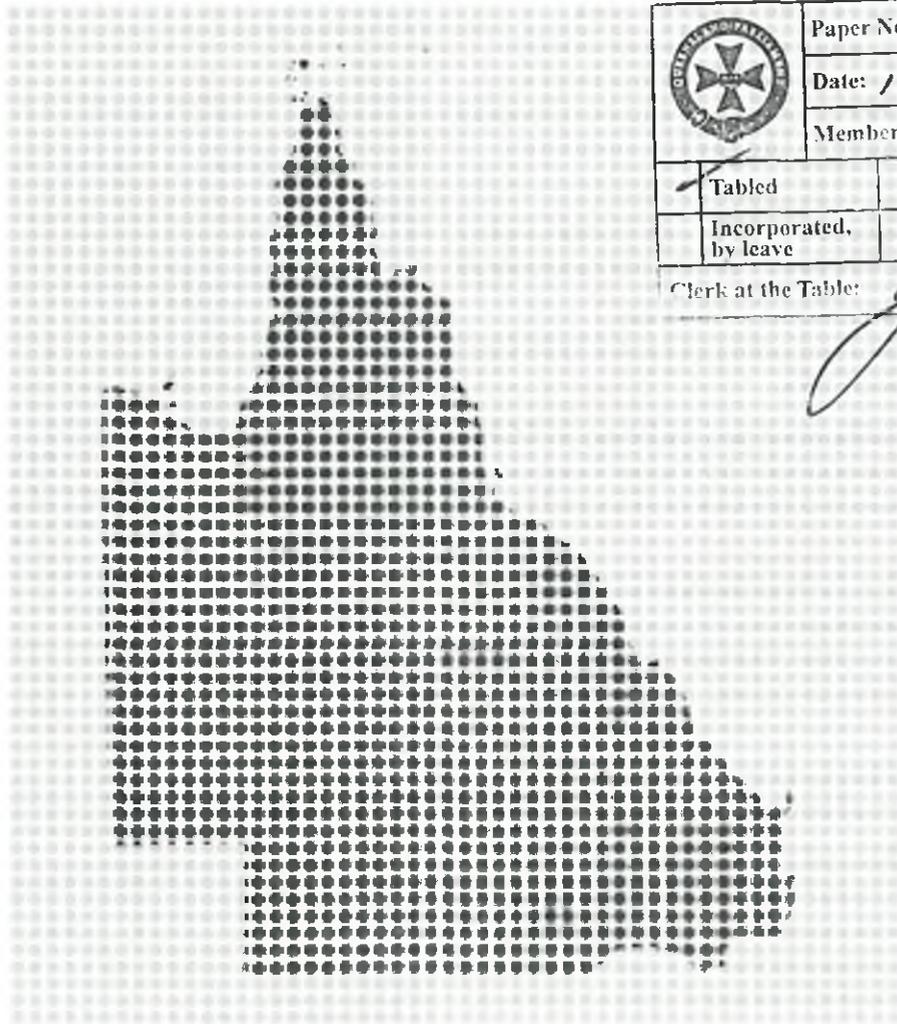


# Tackling alcohol-fuelled violence

A future Labor Government will reduce alcohol-related violence in and around licensed premises, particularly party precincts, by implementing a range of initiatives that focus on both alcohol consumers and alcohol suppliers.

*10/11/15*



	Paper No.: <i>5915T1540</i>
	Date: <i>10/11/15</i>
	Member: <i>Mr Walker</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tabled	Tabled, by leave
<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated, by leave	Remainder incorporated, by leave
Clerk at the Table: <i>[Signature]</i>	

-  [facebook.com/APalaszczukMP](https://facebook.com/APalaszczukMP)
-  [twitter.com/AnnastaciaMP](https://twitter.com/AnnastaciaMP)
-  [flickr.com/APalaszczuk](https://flickr.com/APalaszczuk)
-  [AnnastaciaPalaszczukMP.com.au](https://AnnastaciaPalaszczukMP.com.au)



**Annastacia  
& Labor**

**Labor** Queensland 

## Tackling alcohol-fuelled violence

A future Labor Government will reduce alcohol-related violence in and around licensed premises, particularly entertainment precincts, by implementing a range of initiatives that focus on both alcohol consumers and alcohol suppliers.

As part of our multi-faceted plan to tackle alcohol-fuelled violence, **Labor will:**

- o **Introduce a 1am lockout and stop the service of alcohol at 3am.** Venues with an existing 5am closing licence may choose to remain open to serve food, non-alcoholic beverages and provide entertainment
- o **Continue the operation of Drink Safe Precincts (DSP) in Fortitude Valley, Surfers Paradise and Townsville,** and consider the expansion of DSPs to other areas to ensure local services and strategies are well co-ordinated and effective
- o **Maintain the moratorium on very-late-night/early morning licensed trading** in Queensland
- o **Impose mandatory ban orders on troublemakers** found guilty of repeat offences in pubs, clubs and DSPs
- o **Undertake intelligence-led policing in DSPs and increase inspections by liquor licensing officers,** particularly on Friday and Saturday nights
- o **Empower police to breathalyse intoxicated or disorderly patrons** for the possible prosecution of patrons, management and licensees who have breached regulations of the *Liquor Act 1992*
- o **Ban the sale of high-alcohol-content drinks, including shots, after midnight**
- o **Conduct a multimedia education and awareness campaign,** targeting young male drinkers, about safe drinking practices, the impacts of alcohol-related violence, the changes to alcohol service times and the increased enforcement of existing regulations
- o **Support Federal Opposition Leader Bill Shorten's call for funding for boxer Danny Green's national "coward's punch" campaign**
- o **Investigate strategies to ensure safe travel to and from work for industry staff in the early hours.**

# 76,000

alcohol-related presentations and admissions were made at Qld public hospitals in 2010-12.

# 30,000

hospitalisations are due to harmful alcohol consumption each year.

# 30%

increase to Emergency Department admissions with alcohol a significant factor since 2007

# 60%

of police time spent on alcohol-related issues.

### The challenges we face

Activities that include social drinking are a long-standing part of Australian culture. Such social activities are enjoyed responsibly by Australians of all ages both at home and in licensed venues. Most behave responsibly.

Unfortunately, the actions of some people are spoiling it for everyone, creating an atmosphere of fear and intimidation in popular entertainment precincts and at licensed venues. Where behaviour becomes unacceptable, in terms of being offensive, abusive or violent, high levels of intoxication are often the cause.

Binge drinking – variously considered the consumption of more than four to seven standard drinks in one drinking session – often has unplanned and adverse consequences. It is unfortunate that some individuals choose to rapidly drink themselves into a high-risk state of heavy intoxication. Further, some binge drinkers, particularly young males, have impaired judgement and are more likely to be involved in violent incidents when intoxicated.

Police data suggests that the frequency and severity of alcohol-related violence has increased, particularly in urban areas where there is a concentration of late-opening licensed venues. Between 2010 and 2012, more than 76,000 alcohol-related presentations and admissions were made at Queensland public hospitals. The Chief Health Officer, in the 2012 *Health of Queenslanders* report, found that the harmful consumption of alcohol is responsible for 30,000 hospitalisations in Queensland each year. It has been reported that in 2011, 295 facial surgeries were conducted at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. By 2013, this number had risen to more than 500.

There has also been increasing public awareness of fatalities resulting from assaults, some involving single punches to the head of unsuspecting victims – the so-called “coward’s punch”.

### Labor led Australia

Queensland Labor has led the way in responding to the issues associated with alcohol-related violence.

The previous Labor State Government acknowledged the issue and established an inquiry by the joint-party parliamentary Law, Justice and Safety Committee in 2009. The former government accepted the majority of the committee’s 68 recommendations.

Initiatives of the previous Labor Government to address alcohol-related violence included:

- o Introducing a 3am lock-out
- o Establishing Drink Safe Precincts (in Fortitude Valley, Surfers Paradise and Townsville), the first state in Australia to do so. DSPs aim to reduce alcohol-related violence and improve safety by employing place-based management strategies. These include co-ordinating the work of police, other government departments and community organisations to provide greater protection to patrons and the public.
- o Banning troublemakers from pubs, clubs and precincts.

An evaluation by the Newman Government into the effectiveness of Drink Safe Precincts has found that this model, among other achievements, has:

- o Led to greater co-ordination of local services
- o Had a positive impact on responses to violence and disorder
- o Reduced alcohol-related violence in Fortitude Valley and Surfers Paradise.

Labor now proposes a further suite of initiatives that will build on the success of the previous work and improve safety for patrons in Drink Safe Precincts and licensed premises.

## The next steps

Labor acknowledges that alcohol-related violence and other issues occurring in and around licensed premises are complex. Labor also acknowledges that this complex issue requires a multi-faceted response to reduce the number of people, particularly young people, being seriously injured (or worse) as a result of alcohol-related violence.

Labor's Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence strategy will involve:

### **Introducing changes to very-late-night trading hours**

- o A 1am lock-out and 3am cessation of alcohol service will apply to premises with an extended trading licence. This approach targets a time-frame when many offences occur. Also, this staggered approach will allow patrons to leave licensed premises and find transport home in an orderly manner, reducing the potential for violent incidents.
- o Extended trading licensees may continue to trade past 3am but may not sell or serve alcohol.
- o The moratorium on very-late-night licences will continue, with no further late-night trading licences to be issued for two years.

### **Educating the community, particularly young people, about safe drinking practices**

- o A three-year multimedia education and awareness campaign will be developed and implemented. It will target young people, particularly young men, about safe drinking practices and the dangers of binge drinking and excessive alcohol consumption. The campaign will also be used to educate and inform the community about the changes to the liquor licensing regime and alcohol service times.
- o Queensland Labor also supports the Federal Opposition Leader Bill Shorten's call for funding for boxer Danny Green's national "coward's punch" campaign.

### **Enhancing the policing and enforcement of alcohol licensing requirements**

- o Police will be empowered to breathalyse intoxicated and disorderly patrons for the purposes of possible prosecution of patrons, management and licensees. A blood-alcohol concentration of 0.15 is considered by police to be highly intoxicated to the point of diminished cognition.
- o Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation monitoring of licensed premises will be increased to identify patterns of risk, enforce existing regulations and prosecute where appropriate. The frequency of on-site inspections will increase, particularly on popular Friday and Saturday nights.
- o The Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation will publish risk analyses, regulation breaches and penalties imposed by location (including entertainment precincts) and by licence type.
- o Licensing fees for high-risk venues will be increased, as will penalties for breaches of existing regulations in high-risk venues.
- o Troublemakers who record repeat offences, particularly involving violence, will be subjected to mandatory banning orders and excluded from pubs, clubs and Drink Safe Precincts. This approach is similar to the penalties imposed on drink drivers who repeatedly break the law and fail to learn from their previous offences.
- o Labor will investigate strategies to ensure safe travel to and from work for industry staff in the early hours.

### **Monitoring and regulating the number and density of licensed premises**

- o A review of the number and type of licences in DSPs and other entertainment precincts with existing very-late-night trading licences will be conducted, including risk-based assessment processes.

### **Preventing the harmful discounting and promotion of alcohol**

- o No sale of high-alcohol-content drinks (such as shots) will be permitted after midnight.