

Submission
No 7

INQUIRY INTO ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION IN PUBLIC PLACES (LIBERALISATION) BILL 2024

Organisation: Network of Alcohol and other Drugs Agencies (NADA)

Date Received: 18 July 2024



19 July 2024

The Director, Portfolio Committee 1
Parliament House
Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000
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Re: Alcohol Consumption in Public Places (Liberalisation) Bill 2024

The Network of Alcohol and other Drugs Agencies (NADA) is the peak organisation for the non government alcohol and other drugs sector in NSW. We represent almost 80 organisational members that provide services in over 100 locations across NSW and the ACT. They provide a broad range of services including health promotion and harm reduction, early intervention, treatment and continuing care programs.

NADA welcome the opportunity to provide comment on this bill. There is little detail to be gleaned from the bill regarding how it is specifically implemented, therefore it is difficult to provide specific feedback. However, NADA raise the following comments for consideration.

1. As alcohol is the primary drug of concern across drug and alcohol services and a significant burden of disease, any legislative changes that may lead to an increase in drinking behaviours needs to ensure that there is appropriate access to prevention, early intervention and treatment services.
2. NADA considers that implementation of the existing regulations has the potential to enable discriminatory and harmful policing practices and can lead to increased risk of contact with the criminal justice system for overpoliced populations, such as First Nations people, people experiencing homelessness and people who experience mental health issues.
3. NADA support health-based and harm reduction approaches to alcohol and other drug use in the community rather than criminal responses. We are supportive of opportunities for referral to health supports where appropriate and provision of outreach supports including culturally specific outreach services, in any areas of particular concern.

NADA appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback and are available for further information or discussion.

Yours sincerely,

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Chief Executive Officer

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