



Submission cover sheet

Inquiry into the Liquor Amendment Bill 2025

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Submission to the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs

Inquiry into the Liquor Amendment Bill 2025

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1. Introduction

The Australian Multicultural Action Network (AMAN) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs on the Liquor Amendment Bill 2025.

As an organisation that represents the interests and wellbeing of multicultural communities across the ACT and Australia, AMAN commends the Committee for undertaking this inquiry and recognises the intent of the Bill — to introduce a regulatory framework that promotes responsible alcohol delivery and consumption practices, particularly concerning same-day alcohol delivery services.

AMAN's submission focuses on community health, cultural awareness, education, and equitable access to information — all key to ensuring that this legislation protects not just consumers but the broader community from alcohol-related harm.

2. Community Context and the Multicultural Lens

The ACT is home to an increasingly diverse population. Many members of multicultural and faith-based communities have varying cultural, social, and religious perspectives on alcohol consumption. For some, abstinence is a cultural norm; for others, moderate and responsible consumption is socially accepted.

However, across these diverse communities, one concern is consistent: the potential for alcohol misuse to cause harm to families, young people, and vulnerable individuals. The proliferation of rapid same-day alcohol delivery services has created new challenges — particularly in households where supervision may be limited, language barriers prevent comprehension of responsible service laws, and cultural stigma may discourage open conversations about alcohol dependency.

A culturally informed approach to regulation is therefore essential. Legislation that addresses alcohol-related harm must not only set compliance standards for retailers but also ensure



equitable access to information for communities with limited English proficiency or differing cultural understandings of alcohol.

3. Support for the Bill's Intent

AMAN supports the **intent** of the Liquor Amendment Bill 2025 to:

- Establish **strong consumer protections** for alcohol delivery services;
- **Reduce the risk of harm** to individuals who are already intoxicated;
- Create **clear accountability** for retailers and delivery agents;
- Align alcohol regulation with the realities of a digital and convenience-driven marketplace.

These objectives are both timely and necessary, especially as same-day delivery models have blurred traditional boundaries of retail oversight.

Nonetheless, effective implementation will depend on how these provisions are communicated, enforced, and evaluated — particularly among communities that may not fully understand their rights or the laws surrounding alcohol sale and consumption.

4. Key Considerations and Recommendations

a. Culturally Appropriate Education and Awareness

Legislation alone will not prevent alcohol-related harm. AMAN urges the Government to develop **public education materials** about responsible alcohol consumption and delivery laws in **plain English and Easy Read formats**, and in **community languages** such as Mandarin, Hindi, Arabic, Vietnamese, Dari, and Spanish.

These materials should be shared through multicultural media, community radio, and faith-based organisations.

b. Delivery Verification and Community Safety

The Bill's emphasis on ensuring that alcohol is **not delivered to intoxicated persons** is commendable. However, frontline delivery drivers often face uncertainty and pressure when assessing intoxication. AMAN recommends:

- Mandatory **cultural sensitivity and harm prevention training** for delivery drivers;



- Support for a **digital verification tool** that assists drivers in identifying legal delivery conditions without confrontation or embarrassment;
- Collaboration with multicultural community leaders to design these training programs.

c. Safeguards for Vulnerable Households

Some families within CALD communities face higher risks of harm due to social isolation or financial stress. AMAN recommends the establishment of a **Community Harm Reduction Fund**, financed through a modest levy on same-day alcohol delivery licenses, to support community programs addressing addiction, family violence, and youth outreach.

d. Transparency and Data Collection

To measure the effectiveness of the reforms, AMAN encourages the inclusion of **data collection requirements** — particularly demographic information on alcohol-related harm and complaints. This will help the ACT Government identify patterns of misuse across age, gender, and cultural backgrounds and tailor future interventions accordingly.

5. The Role of Community Partnerships

AMAN believes that the success of the Liquor Amendment Bill 2025 will hinge on strong partnerships between government, health services, and multicultural organisations. Community-led engagement — such as workshops, peer education programs, and multilingual campaigns — can bridge the gap between legislation and lived experience.

AMAN stands ready to collaborate with the ACT Government, alcohol industry representatives, and community networks to ensure this framework achieves its public health objectives while respecting cultural diversity and inclusion.

6. Conclusion

In summary, AMAN **supports** the introduction of the Liquor Amendment Bill 2025, provided that its implementation includes:

1. **Accessible and multilingual education** about responsible alcohol delivery and consumption;
2. **Cultural and harm-prevention training** for delivery agents;
3. **Community-based harm reduction initiatives**; and



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4. **Transparent monitoring and evaluation** that recognises multicultural perspectives.

This Bill represents an important step in safeguarding the wellbeing of all ACT residents. By embedding cultural inclusion and social responsibility at every stage, the ACT can lead the nation in balancing innovation in service delivery with community safety.

Kind regards,
Ravi Krishnamurthy