



Submission cover sheet

Inquiry into the Liquor Amendment Bill 2025

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Dear Committee,

I am writing to provide a personal submission regarding the Inquiry into the Liquor Amendments Bill 2025, as a life-long resident of the ACT and as someone who has lost a close friend to alcohol-related disease.

I feel I should firstly state that I have volunteered to be a lived experience advocate, assisting efforts of the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) in their call for stronger measures to protect vulnerable people—and those who love them—from alcohol abuse. I am not paid for this work or reimbursed for my time. I simply stumbled across the opportunity to tell my story at a time when I was initially grieving the loss of my friend, and sought, through FARE, the opportunity for something positive to come from such a tragedy.

I applaud the ACT Legislative Assembly for taking the initiative to introduce the Bill.

I strongly believe the proposed changes are extremely reasonable, particularly regarding restricting alcohol delivery to the hours of between 10am and 10pm. I also support enforcing a 2 hour delay between ordering and delivery.

The person who I loved and lost due to alcohol had tried many times to get better. He was a regular user of in-home alcohol delivery. I believe that there being scant restriction to online alcohol ordering and delivery contributed to his addiction and his subsequent death. I am sure that there were times where if he hadn't had ready access, particularly late at night when he was already inebriated, or if he had to wait for 2 hours before having alcohol delivered, he would likely have just gone to bed after he exhausted his supply, rather than order more alcohol and continue dangerous levels of drinking.

I also believe it is unreasonable to expect delivery people to abide by rules where they are enforcing the responsible use of alcohol in potentially unsafe environments. If a delivery person believes a person is intoxicated and refuses to deliver alcohol in an in-home situation, particularly late at night, it may lead them into a dangerous situation should the person who ordered the alcohol become belligerent or abusive. This situation assumes the delivery person has indeed obtained a qualification in the responsible provision of alcohol, and that they are incentivised to take the time and personal risk to enforce precautions by not delivering, rather than just ringing the bell or knocking on the door, and leaving the ordered alcohol at a person's front door.

At least in a licensed premises (either a bar or a bottle shop), there is security (either through personnel, or through monitoring equipment) that goes some way to helping maintain the safety of people who do deny provision of alcohol to intoxicated individuals. These precautionary safety nets are not available to people who deliver alcohol to people's houses or apartments. The safety risk increases late at night.

Furthermore, should the Bill be successful, there is potential for additional harm minimisation by examining ways to prevent push-notifications from alcohol-delivery companies to vulnerable people. My friend had periods of sobriety, mainly following stints of rehabilitation, where he was targeted to continue purchasing. At times of extreme vulnerability, he could succumb and proceed to order with just one click of a button, despite his efforts to unsubscribe. The companies are cunning and target their markets through multiple channels. This is predatory behaviour.

The components proposed in the Bill (restricting delivery times and putting a 'cooling off' period in place) are solid first steps and I believe they are a move in the right direction. Should the Bill ascend, it would set valuable precedent in other jurisdictions. I think the ACT Government is providing a courageous example of what a progressive government can potentially introduce.

Regards,

Alex Bagnara