



# Submission cover sheet

## Inquiry into the Liquor Amendment Bill 2025

Submission number: 003

Submitter: Domestic Violence Crisis Service

Date authorised for publication: 26 November 2025

24 November 2025

Standing Committee on Legal Affairs

ACT Legislative Assembly

By email: [LACommitteeLegal@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:LACommitteeLegal@parliament.act.gov.au)

Dear Committee Members,

**RE: Inquiry into the Liquor Amendment Bill 2025**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the committee inquiry into the Liquor Amendment Bill 2025, introduced in to the ACT Legislative Assembly in October 2025, to regulate same-day delivery of alcohol.

The Domestic Violence Crisis Service (DVCS) is a non-government, not-for-profit specialist domestic and family violence service that has been operating in Canberra for 35 years. Our vision is a world free from violence and abuse and our mission is to reduce the instances of abuse and violence occurring in relationships, through providing crisis and long-term support services, programs for children and young people who have experienced domestic and family violence and perpetrator behaviour change programs.

The causes and contributors to gender-based violence are extremely complex and founded in attitudes and behaviours around gender inequality, and intersect with other forms of discrimination, including racism, ableism and homophobia. Understanding the gendered nature of family violence, and tackling the underlying assumptions, attitudes and systemic factors that enable it is crucial.

Eliminating gender-based violence is everybody's business. It will require action from across government and community, schools, workplaces, businesses, sporting clubs and media.

It will also require domestic and family violence to be considered in decision-making about legislative reform and regulation of industries. We welcome the ACT Legislative Assembly's ongoing work to tackle gender-based violence, including in this legislation.

The use of violence is always a choice, and alcohol does not cause gender-based violence. But alcohol use can be a contributing or a risk factor for violence. There are links between men's heavy episodic drinking, and the frequency and severity of their use of violence. The South Australian Royal Commission reported alcohol was a contributing factor in nearly half of all high-risk domestic and family violence incidents reviewed by the South Australian Multi-Agency Protection Service in the 2023–24 financial year.<sup>i</sup> In our experience working with people experiencing violence, women often report perpetrator's alcohol use as a factor when violence escalates. This is reflected in the national data, where alcohol is estimated to be involved in between 23 and 65 percent of all family violence incidents reported to police.<sup>ii</sup>

Male drinking culture and the consumption of alcohol with other men in male-dominated setting can also be linked with models of masculinity that emphasises aggression, dominance and control. Our Watch states "the interaction between cultures of heavy alcohol consumption and dominant cultures of masculinity can drive or exacerbate male aggression towards women and normalise disrespect and violence."<sup>iii</sup>

DVCS supports the measures in the Bill that are aimed at minimising alcohol related harm, including harms associated with domestic, family and sexual violence. In particular, we strongly support the measures to limit same-day alcohol delivery hours to between 10am-10pm, and the safety pause between customers ordering alcohol and delivery. These measures will contribute to efforts to reduce the incidences and severity of family violence experienced by the ACT community.

There are clear links between rapid delivery and high-risk alcohol use. FARE's 2020 Alcohol Poll found of people ordering rapid delivery, 38 per cent drank more than 10 standard drinks on that occasion.<sup>iv</sup> A VicHealth survey found 77 per cent of people who ordered rapid delivery would have stopped if it was unavailable.<sup>v</sup>

Both the South Australian Royal Commission and the Final Report of the Rapid Review Expert Panel *Unlocking the Prevention Potential*<sup>vi</sup> recommended action to regulate same-day delivery of alcohol. We are proud that the ACT is one of the first jurisdiction to act to implement these recommendations and thereby reduce harms experienced by women and children experiencing domestic and family violence.

DVCS was disappointed to not see provisions in the Bill to address a further key recommendation of both the Rapid Review and the South Australian Royal Commission: that is to ensure harm minimisation, including gendered violence as an alcohol-related harm, is made the primary object of the Liquor Act. We look forward to continuing the conversation with the ACT Government about next steps.

There is also need for more work to be done to challenge male drinking cultures that celebrate aggression and disrespect towards women and expressions of masculinity. We would also support measures towards regulation of alcohol advertising in the ACT. In general, the ACT Government lacks an overarching plan to guide community-wide action to eliminate gender-based violence. We hope the 10-year strategy ACT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Strategy will provide a framework for ambitious, cross-government and community action, and guide decision-making about resourcing and investment.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss anything raised in this submission.

For more information, please contact:

Brooke McKail, Deputy CEO

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<sup>i</sup> Government of South Australia (August 2025) [With courage: South Australia's vision beyond violence](#), page 9.

<sup>ii</sup> ANROWS (2017) [Links between alcohol consumption and domestic and sexual violence against women: Key finding and directions](#)

<sup>iii</sup> Our Watch (2025) [Opportunities to address alcohol policy as part of a holistic approach to preventing violence against women](#)

<sup>iv</sup> Foundation Alcohol Research and Education (2020) [Annual Alcohol Poll](#)

<sup>v</sup> VicHealth (2020) [On-demand alcohol delivery services and risky drinking](#)

<sup>vi</sup> E Campbell et al as the Rapid Review Expert Panel (2024) [Unlocking the prevention potential: Accelerating action to end domestic, family and sexual violence](#)