



Media Release: 30 September, 2019

Safety no longer paramount under proposed plans for night time economy

Emergency services workers are disappointed and seriously concerned after a release of a report that recommends a complete reversal of alcohol laws in the Sydney CBD precinct including Oxford Street.

Campaign spokesperson and President of the Australian Salaried Medical Officers' Federation Dr Tony Sara said "It is extremely disappointing that the report of the Joint Select Committee on Sydney's Night Time Economy leads with statements that safety must be the primary ongoing consideration for any changes, but then proceeds to ignore the weight of evidence and proof of the role existing measures have had in reducing harm."

"This is a report that offers only flimsy arguments for bringing back heightened alcohol consumption, and that has the gall to say that the last thing the committee wants is for Sydney's night life to be seen as being reliant on or centred around alcohol. Who are they kidding?,"

"If the government goes down this path - we will be keeping a record of every assault and death that occurs as a result of their decision to scrap Sydney's life-saving alcohol measures.

"Based on our collective experiences at the frontline of picking up the pieces when night time drinking goes wrong, we are very, very conscious of the very real likelihood that assaults in the public and assaults on emergency services workers will increase.

"We represent dedicated professionals who steadfastly serve the community with care and compassion. We will never cease our efforts to keep emergency services and the community safe.

"At the same time we will also continue to hold political leaders to account for any reduction in community safety. We will take an active role in monitoring any increases in harm and we will continue to speak out to Keep Sydney Safe.

"Before acting on the recommendations in this report the Premier and her Cabinet need to take a long, hard look into ongoing safety and community considerations. If they go too far then they will need to be held directly accountable for the consequences," Dr Sara said.

The Last Drinks coalition represents NSW emergency service workers and includes doctors, police, nurses and paramedics.

Visit www.lastdrinks.org.au for more information.

Media Contact: Amelia Brock, 0430 187 161