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Mr Michael Thorne
Chief Executive Officer, Foundation for Alcohol Research & Education
PO Box 19
DEAKIN WEST ACT 2600

Dear Mr Thorne

FARE Policy Options Paper – Preventing alcohol-related family and domestic violence

We thank you for your efforts in preparing this comprehensive paper on policy options to help prevent alcohol-related family and domestic violence.

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons is a strong advocate for evidence-based measures that will reduce alcohol-fuelled violence and related harms. The College has developed its recommendations on this issue by drawing on scientific evidence and the expertise of our Fellows in Australia and New Zealand, and other members of the medical profession.

Alcohol-related family and domestic violence is particularly abhorrent because it affects men, women and children in their homes, where they should feel safest.

Our College recommends three key measures that governments can implement to reduce alcohol-related harm.

- Reduced trading hours.
- Reduced availability of alcohol through reduced outlet density.
- Application of a stepped volumetric tax on alcohol.

The College also supports:

- Efforts to reduce young people's exposure to alcohol advertising
- Mandatory collection of data on alcohol use in emergency department presentations, and alcohol sales data.

As such, most of our recommendations generally fall within the 'primary prevention' suite of measures outlined in the policy options paper. Attached please find our response to all of the policy options proposed by FARE.

Yours sincerely,

PROFESSOR DAVID WATTERS, OBE, FRACS
COLLEGE VICE PRESIDENT

Cc: Prof Michael Grigg, PRACS, College President
Ms Deborah Jenkins, Director, Relationships & Advocacy