



5 November 2019

The Hon Gladys Berejiklian, MP
Premier of NSW
GPO Box 5341
Sydney NSW 2001

By email: Sarah.Cruickshank@premier.nsw.gov.au

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Dear Premier,

Request to prevent extension of 11pm restriction on takeaway liquor sales

I write to you as Chair of the Orthopaedic Women's Link, a Board Committee of the Australian Orthopaedic Association, the professional body representing Australian orthopaedic surgeons.

OWL (and AOA) members deal with the musculoskeletal surgical and reconstructive consequences of injury, especially road trauma and violence.

OWL wishes to express concern regarding the repeal of the laws which have reduced alcohol-related harm over the last five years in NSW.

As women working in the field of orthopaedic surgery, we see the end result of alcohol induced injury in the beds of the Emergency Department, under our care in the Operating Theatres and in our Outpatient Clinics.

One in every six adult women presenting to an Orthopaedic Clinic do so as the result of intimate partner violence, as demonstrated in research published in The Lancet¹. This violence is often alcohol-fuelled.

We are reminded in our daily work of the economic burden for the people of NSW, which include costs for health care delivery and lost productivity, resulting from the alcohol related musculoskeletal injuries. We write the medical certificates and know at first hand the number of days lost from work. We see the social impact on families and individuals.

OWL continues to advocate so orthopaedic surgeons in training are aware of and are prepared to deal with the health consequences of alcohol-related violence, especially as a precipitant of domestic violence. Prevention of these serious health and social outcomes is by far the more prudent path than investing enormous quantities of NSW Government resources in treating the resultant physical and mental health issues. The significant financial burden of alcohol-related violence upon both the NSW Government and the community must be seriously assessed against any benefit to the "Night Trading Economy" of Sydney which we understand to be the purpose of repealing these laws.

¹ The Lancet, Volume 382, Issue 9895, P866-876, September 07, 2013.



Legislation has important and enduring effects that prevent and minimise alcohol-related harm. We ask that the NSW Government strongly considers these effects and does not repeal or “walk back” legislation and regulation concerning the sale of alcohol after 11 pm.

I would like an opportunity to meet with you to discuss our concerns at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Green FRACS FAOrthA
Chair, AOA Orthopaedic Women's Link

Andrew Ellis OAM FRACS(Orth) FAOrthA
AOA President