



29 JULY 2016

Unanimous ACT political party support against a ‘blunt instrument’ approach to curbing alcohol fuel violence

Keep Canberra Open will use this Saturday’s planned rally to celebrate the unanimous support across Government against the ‘blunt instrument’ approach of lockouts, reduced trading hours or closing times as methods for harm minimisation in the alcohol industry.

Keep Canberra Open have received letters from Jeremy Hanson, Leader of the Opposition, Shane Rattenbury MLA of the ACT Greens and Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister all supporting no changes to trading times or increased fees for late trading. These commitments are strongly welcomed by Keep Canberra Open as the risk based licencing model currently in use in the ACT, has already resulted in an 11% decline in alcohol related assaults since it was introduced in 2010.

For copies of each of these letters please see our website www.keepcanberraopen.com.au.

“Keep Canberra Open and its supporters have worked tirelessly to raise awareness of the risks that were being seriously overlooked through 3am closures in the ACT,” Ryan Sabet Spokesperson of Keep Canberra Open said.

“The misleading statements and representation of statistics by FARE and the AMA fails to present a true picture of the debate and creates an irrational fear of our city at night in the community. ACT Policing data itself shows that you are more likely to be attacked in Canberra between 5 and 6 PM. Statistics such as this fly in the face of many of the arguments presented by the anti-late night culture lobby groups.”

“Keep Canberra Open has proven to be a voice that will help to balance the important debate on how to create a vibrant music and late night culture whilst managing the risks of the industry.”

Throughout the past few months, Keep Canberra Open successfully communicated the needs of a important part of our community and have done so without the approximately \$3.2m in revenue FARE use to lobby against the liquor industry. Our supporters are community members who believe in working together for a solution, not restrictive legislation.

“We are serious about growing our late night culture and making that culture safe. To help build positive plans for our city, Keep Canberra Open has developed the Positive Late Night Culture Policy Paper, which we have presented to Government. We will use the new seat to be created by the Government on the Liquor Advisory Board to represent the late night economy, and ensure these policies are debated in the consultation process,” Mr Sabet said.

To review this policy please see our website www.keepcanberraopen.com.au.

The planned rally will now be a rally celebration of the unanimous support across government for the protection of music and late night culture and will be held at Westside Acton Park, with performances and speeches by The Aston Shuffle, Hands Like Houses, Peking Duk, Jeremy Hanson, Tyson Koh of Keep Sydney Open, Young Monks, Megan Bones, Turquoise Prince LTC and local heros.

Share the Keep Canberra Open Rally Facebook event [here](#).

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