



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

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ADGP submission to Senate Economics Committee on Customs Amendment

In our submission to the Senate Economics Committee on Customs Amendment (Fuel Tax Reform and Other Measures) Bill 2006, ADGP urges the government to consider uniform tax incentives for growing the reduced strength alcohol market.

Kate Carnell, ADGP CEO said "The data from the most recent National Drug Strategy Household Survey is quite alarming with almost 10% of the population consuming alcohol in a way that is risky or high risk to health in the longer term.

"There is also growing concern about the early onset of risky drinking among young people. More than 60% of 12 to 15 year olds are now drinking on a regular basis. This is an alarming statistic.

"Alcohol plays a significant role in adolescent culture and is very much a group activity for younger age groups. We should not be making alcohol more affordable for this age group.

"Any financial gain to the Australian Government through an updating and streamlining of customs and excise administrative procedures should be balanced with investment in prevention of alcohol misuse and strategies that reduce harm occurring through alcohol consumption."

ADGP has recommended that consideration be given to:

- an approach to alcohol issues that provides a balanced investment meeting economic and industry needs and those of population health and public safety
- the significant role of the primary health care sector in prevention and treatment of alcohol-related problems and the need for continuous education and skills development
- further exploration and application of the alcohol taxation reform model developed by the Alcohol and other Drug Council of Australia.

Ms Carnell added "A broad and equitable taxation reform process that is backed with enhanced prevention and treatment measures implemented through the health care system, will provide savings on health expenditure, improve productivity, reduce workplace and community related harm and bring economic, social and health benefit to the whole community."

For more information please call Kate Carnell, ADGP Chief Executive Officer, on 0415 662 266.

WHAT IS ADGP?

- ADGP is the peak body representing 119 Divisions of General Practice and eight State-based organisations (SBOs) around Australia. The Divisions Network supports general practice and their practice teams and drives the implementation of innovative health strategies.
- ADGP, through the Divisions Network, works to integrate general practice with other sectors of the health system, both government and non-government, to deliver high quality care to the Australian community.
- ADGP is committed to promoting the health of all Australians by supporting the role of Divisions in the nation's primary health care system.



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