



Coalition of Alcohol and Drug Educators

Dalgarno
INSTITUTE

Political Briefing

Media Briefing

Community Briefing

Media & Political Briefing:

Selling alcohol to kids online – NOT OK!

**NSW Government has the
opportunity to fix this!**

Date: 08.10.2020



Media Statement:

It is time to act for the greater safety and well-being of the family, but most importantly, NSW's children.

It was concerning enough that ID checking around online alcohol sales was neglected prior to pandemic, but now under cover of Covid and its new 'relaxed' licensing laws, the alcohol industry have been enabled to use the emerging vagaries to sell to minors. Not only that but the online sales debacle sees virtually zero prevention of delivery to people who are intoxicated.

"We here at the Dalgarno Institute and its members could not agree more with FARE on this issue – These loopholes must be shut down, and shut down immediately!" said Shane Varcoe, Executive Director of the Institute.

There is strong community support for introducing common sense measures to protect children; the majority of people in NSW (87%) think age should be verified to purchase alcohol online.

"Right now, the NSW Parliament has the opportunity to ensure that we are doing all we can to keep families and communities safe by introducing smart and clearly needed and plain caring measures in relation to online alcohol delivery," Mr Varcoe said.

"If you have ever been in any emergency room or spoken to any of the [long suffering front line medical professionals](#) they will let you know, in no uncertain terms, the shocking harms done by alcohol on our young and speak damningly of any legislation (or lack of) that further enables these horrendous outcomes – to children!"

The NSW Parliament is considering legislation on online alcohol deliveries, and community and health organisations are advocating common sense measures including requiring age verification when alcohol is sold online, and preventing alcohol being delivered into the home within two hours of purchase and late at night.



We further advocate for...

- Extend the offence to supply alcohol to a person who is intoxicated to all deliveries, not just same day delivery. Alcohol supply to people who are intoxicated should always be an offence.
- Reintroduce the requirement to verify age at point of sale to prevent alcohol being sold to children, and extend it to all alcohol deliveries, not just same day delivery – and ensure that no alcohol is simply ‘left on doorsteps’. Penalties for such breaches should be extensive.
- Amend the cut-off-times for alcohol delivery, so that latest delivery is 9pm instead of midnight, and earliest delivery is midday instead of 5am. This is due to the known risk of greater alcohol harms in the home late at night, such as suicide and family violence.
- Introduce a delay of at least three hours between order and delivery, as the evidence shows delivery within 2 hours is associated with risky alcohol use. A delivery delay will reduce the risk of alcohol supply to people who are intoxicated, which in turn will increase personal safety for delivery agents.

FARE’s Annual Alcohol Poll found online alcohol retailers were not routinely checking ID, with only 38 per cent of people having their ID checked on delivery and 25 per cent finding alcohol left unattended.

The poll also found that, of people who use rapid delivery, the majority (70%) drank at a risky level (5 or more standard drinks) on the day of delivery, including more than a third (38%) who drank at a very high risk level (11 or more standard drinks).

“Along with FARE and the NAAA, the Dalgarno Institute will continue our work to advocate for these evidence-based policy measures to keep families and communities safe and prevent alcohol-fuelled harm,” Mr Varcoe stated.

Communications Officer

