



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians



The Royal
Australian &
New Zealand
College of
Psychiatrists

RACP and RANZCP release updated Alcohol Policy

Media Release

3 March 2016

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) today released their updated Alcohol Policy which highlights the influence alcohol is having on individuals, families and communities and makes recommendations regarding how its impact can be reduced.

The Policy focuses on the need for a comprehensive, evidence-based and national approach to combating the harms of alcohol, including measures to:

- Prevent the industry promoting alcohol to children and adolescents;
- Reduce the availability of alcohol through measures to restrict outlet density and trading hours;
- Introduce universal volumetric taxation and a floor price for alcohol; and
- Ensure access to effective treatment services.

RACP President Laureate Professor Nick Talley said it is time for a serious national conversation about Australian and New Zealand alcohol consumption, without the influence of the alcohol industry.

“The impact alcohol is having on individuals, families and society is hugely significant, with alcohol consumption being a causal factor in more than 200 disease and injury conditionsⁱ,” explained Professor Talley.

“There is a wealth of evidence supporting our call that comprehensive well-targeted policy changes would make a big difference in reducing the current high level of alcohol-related harms.

“Our updated Alcohol Policy highlights the clear and compelling need for a nationally coordinated and comprehensive alcohol policy, developed with the expertise of key stakeholders.”

Professor Malcolm Hopwood, President of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists noted the significant role of alcohol in exacerbating mental health disorders in the community.

“Australian society pays a huge price for its excessive use of alcohol” he says.

The Policy is available by clicking [here](#).

Ends

Media contact: David Walsh ph: (+61) 401 164 537 david.walsh@racp.edu.au

ⁱ World Health Organization. Alcohol. Fact sheet; 2015, <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs349/en/>.