



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

Media Statement

RACP welcomes report on the harmful use of alcohol among Indigenous Australians

30 June 2015

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) welcomes the Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs' report on the harmful use of alcohol in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The report, entitled, '[*Inquiry into the harmful use of alcohol in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities: Alcohol, hurting people and harming communities*](#)', was tabled in the House of Representatives on Thursday, 25 June 2015.

RACP President, Laureate Professor Nick Talley said the report highlights a number of key recommendations made in the RACP's submission to the Inquiry last year that are essential to addressing alcohol-related problems.

"The College has been strongly advocating for a national minimum floor price on alcohol, and volumetric tax on alcohol, so we strongly support this recommendation in the report," Professor Talley said.

"Every day, physicians see the harmful effects of alcohol abuse, whether in the addiction clinics, the emergency department, orthopaedic wards, rehabilitation centres or liver clinics.

"These problems are even more acute in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities where the incidence of alcohol-related harms and other physical and mental health disorders is much higher."

Professor Talley said the Committee's recognition of the social and economic determinants of harmful drinking such as poverty and an ongoing sense of grief and loss will help inform the government policy to address alcohol-related problems in communities.

Other recommendations in the report that the RACP strongly supports include:

- Development of a framework, methodology and resource allocation for the collection and publication of a national standardised wholesale alcohol sales dataset
- A systematic evaluation of different options for the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

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addiction medicine. Beyond the drive for medical excellence, the RACP is committed to developing health and social policies which bring vital improvements to the wellbeing of patients. www.racp.edu.au