

Victorian Election Poll: Perspectives on alcohol

Summary of findings

- The majority of Victorians believe that the current Victorian Government should be doing more to reduce alcohol-related street violence (77%), alcohol-related family and domestic violence (76%), risky alcohol consumption among young people under 18 (73%) and Emergency Department hospital presentations from alcohol (67%).
- More than half (57%) of Victorians believe that none of the major political parties would be best at reducing alcohol-related harms or are unsure, 17% believe that the Liberal and National Coalition would be best, 16% believe the Labor Party would be best and 10% believe that the Greens would be best.
- Three-quarters (75%) of Victorians would like the party leaders, Denis Napthine and Daniel Andrews, to outline their party's plan to address alcohol-related harms prior to the next state election.
- Twice as many Victorians (44%) believed that political parties are influenced by the alcohol industry in their approaches to alcohol policy than those who do not (20%).
- Over one-third (35%) of Victorians consider alcohol-related harms a greater concern than illicit drugs, compared to 44% who do not consider alcohol-related harms a greater concern than illicit drugs, and 20% who are unsure.

Findings

Victorian Government action on alcohol

Victorians were asked if they believe the current Victorian state government is doing enough or should be doing more to reduce a number of specific alcohol-related harms.

The majority (77%) of Victorians believe the current Victorian Government should be doing more to reduce alcohol-related street violence, 15% believe they are currently doing enough, and 8% are unsure. Baby boomers are most likely to believe that more should be done by the Victorian Government to reduce alcohol-related street violence (84%).

The majority (76%) of Victorians believe that the current Victorian Government should be doing more to reduce alcohol-related family and domestic violence, 11% believe they are currently doing enough, and 12% are unsure.

The majority (73%) of Victorians believe the current Victorian Government should be doing more to reduce risky alcohol consumption among young people aged under 18 years, 16% believe they are currently doing enough, and 11% are unsure.

The majority (67%) of Victorians believe the current Victorian Government should be doing more to reduce Emergency Department hospital presentations from alcohol, 12% believe they are currently doing enough, and 21% are unsure.

The table below provides an overview of responses for all Victorians.

	Reduce alcohol-related street violence, including one-punch attacks (%)	Reduce alcohol-related family and domestic violence (%)	Reduce risky alcohol consumption among young people under 18 years (%)	Reduce Emergency Department hospital presentations from alcohol (%)
Should be doing more	77	76	73	67
Currently doing enough	15	11	16	12
Don't know	8	12	11	21

Best party to reduce alcohol-related harms

Over half (57%) of Victorians believe that none of the parties would be best at reducing alcohol-related harms or were unsure which party would be best, 17% believe that the Liberal and National Coalition would be best, 16% believe the Labor Party would be best and 10% believe that the Greens would be best. The table below provides an overview of responses for all Victorians.

	All Victoria (%)
The Liberal and National Coalition	17
The Labor Party	16
The Greens	10
None/Don't know	57

Party's plans to address alcohol-related harms

Three-quarters (75%) of Victorians would like party leaders, Denis Napthine and Daniel Andrews, to outline their party's plans to address alcohol-related harms, 8% would not like party leaders to do this, and 17% are unsure. Baby boomers (82%) are most likely to want party leaders to outline their party's plans to address alcohol-related harms. The table below provides an overview of responses for all Victorians.

	All Victoria (%)
Would like to see party leaders outline their party's plan to address alcohol-related harms	75
Would not like to see party leaders outline their party's plan to address alcohol-related harms	8
Don't know	17

Influence of industry on major political parties

Twice as many (44%) Victorians believe that political parties are influenced by the alcohol industry in their approaches to alcohol policy than those who do not (20%). The remaining 36% are unsure. The table below provides an overview of responses for all Victorians.

	All Victoria (%)
Major political parties are being influenced by the alcohol industry in their approaches to alcohol policy	44
Major political parties are not being influenced by the alcohol industry in their approaches to alcohol policy	20
Don't know	36

Consider alcohol-related harms a greater concern than illicit drugs

Over one-third (35%) of Victorians consider alcohol-related harms a greater concern than illicit drugs, 44% do not, and 20% are unsure. Gen Y (44%) are more likely to consider alcohol-related harms a greater concern than illicit drugs. The table below provides an overview of responses for all Victorians.

	All Victoria (%)
Consider alcohol-related harms a greater concern than illicit drugs	35
Do not consider alcohol-related harms a greater concern than illicit drugs	44
Don't know	20

About the Polling

The Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) commissioned Galaxy Research to carry out polling of Victorians to gain their perspectives on alcohol and actions that could be taken by the Victorian party leaders to address alcohol-related harms. This study was conducted online among members of a permission-based panel. The sample selected from the panel members had quotas applied to ensure that it reflected the current population statistics.

Fieldwork commenced on Tuesday 14 October 2014 and was completed on Friday 17 October 2014. The survey sample comprised 538 respondents aged 18 years and older in Victoria. Following the collection of data, the results were weighted by age, gender and region to reflect the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) population estimates.



Foundation for Alcohol
Research & Education



About FARE

The Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation working to stop the harm caused by alcohol. Alcohol harm in Australia is significant. More than 5,500 lives are lost every year and more than 157,000 people are hospitalised making alcohol one of our nation's greatest preventative health challenges.

For over a decade, FARE has been working with communities, governments, health professionals and police across the country to stop alcohol harms by supporting world-leading research, raising public awareness and advocating for changes to alcohol policy. In that time FARE has helped more than 750 communities and organisations, and backed over 1,400 projects around Australia.

FARE is guided by the *World Health Organization's Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol* for stopping alcohol harms through population-based strategies, problem directed policies, and direct interventions.

If you would like to contribute to FARE's important work, call us on (02) 6122 8600, email info@fare.org.au or visit FARE's website: www.fare.org.au.

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