

2015

## TRADING HOUR PUSH AHEAD OF SUMMER DRINKS TOLL

New figures on alcohol-related hospital admissions prove the urgent need for trading hour reforms in Queensland.

AMA Queensland, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) and the Queensland Coalition for Action on Alcohol (QCAA) have welcomed the State Government's planned last drinks laws and called for bipartisan support to curb the damage.

"It's time to take charge – this proposal to restrict trading hours across the state will save lives," QCAA Chairman Professor Jake Najman said.

"Drinking related violence is increasing; every day we see the devastating results in emergency departments," AMA Queensland President Dr Chris Zappala said.

Queensland Health data from hospitals across the state shows the growing scourge of drinking related violence and injuries goes well beyond the urban entertainment precincts (see over) with alcohol-related emergency department presentations up more than 24 per cent from 2009-10 to 2014-15.

For example, Cairns Hospital alcohol-related presentations were up 35 per cent over five years to be the second highest in the State.

"We need a bipartisan move to rollout and evaluate the Last Drinks ," Prof. Najman said.

"With Schoolies celebrations and summer holidays fast approaching, time is of the essence."

RACS spokesperson Dr Brian McGowan, Director of Surgery at Logan Hospital, said the statistics play out in Queensland hospitals every night.

"We see too many deaths, horrific injuries and lives destroyed by excessive drinking and violence," Dr McGowan said.

"For those of us working on the frontline, trading hour changes cannot come fast enough."