

Still time to avert alcohol tax crisis

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) has called on the government, the Greens and other cross bench Senators to work together to pass the “alcopops” tax in the Senate today.

CEO of the PHAA, Michael Moore, said “There is too much at stake to allow sugary, alcoholic drinks to be back within easy reach of kids. If this measure fails it will be a major win for the distillers. The tax has been working. It now needs to be given a chance as part of a comprehensive package dealing with inappropriate drinking.

“Failure of the legislation will mean the market will be flooded with these products to the detriment of our young.

“The industry is desperate to restart this market and a failure of the legislation will simply be a nod for them at a cost to the health of our community.

“Surely it is not too much to ask for the parties to work together to make this measure work. We know everyone apart from the opposition wants the tax loophole closed.

“Senator Fielding, who has a special concern with regard to alcohol therefore has a special responsibility to make this happen.

“The PHAA has been attempting to work with all sectors to get the best possible outcome for the community.

“It is not too late!

“In the interest of the health of the community, the wellbeing of our kids and the long term changes in drinking behaviour we urge the cross benches and government to work closely together to pass this legislation,” said Mr Moore.

For further information/comment:

Michael Moore, CEO of the PHAA
Professor Mike Daube, President of the PHAA
PHAA Office

0417 249 731
0409 933 933
02 6285 2373