Community Consultation
Park Lands Dry Area
GPO Box 2252
Adelaide SA 5001

21 February 2020

Via email: yoursay@cityofadelaide.com.au

RE: Proposed 24/7 Dry Area in All Adelaide Park Lands

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) is recognised as the principal non-government organisation for public health in Australia working to promote the health and well-being of all Australians. It is the pre-eminent voice for the public’s health in Australia, and seeks to drive better health outcomes through increased knowledge, better access and equity, evidence informed policy and effective population-based practice in public health.

PHAA welcomes the opportunity to provide input to provide comments on the City of Adelaide’s consultation on a 24/7 Dry Zone in Adelaide’s Park Lands. The City Council’s information package says that the proposal for a 24/7 Dry Area is part of addressing concerns about ‘excess alcohol consumption and anti-social behaviour in the South Park Lands.’

We appreciate the responsibility of local council in improving community safety, however we believe that the current proposal is short-sighted, and likely to affect Aboriginal people disproportionately and result in criminalising their behaviour. PHAA are therefore opposed to the 24/7 dry zone across all Adelaide park lands.

PHAA supports reducing alcohol harms through:

- effective alcohol pricing policies, including taxation and minimum pricing
- government controls on alcohol availability
- government regulation of alcohol marketing
- adequately funded, sustained, research-based alcohol education and awareness programs,
- research-based warning labels on alcoholic beverages.

Merely implementing a Dry Zone without any of these other reduction mechanisms only shifts the alcohol-related harms to another physical location, without addressing the cause or supporting the people affected.

The PHAA appreciates the opportunity to make this submission. We are aware and in support of the submission being made by the South Australian Council of Social Services (SACOSS).

Yours Sincerely,

Terry Slevin
Chief Executive Officer
Public Health Association of Australia

Kate Kameniar
PHAA Branch President
South Australia