

JUNE 2016

2016 AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY POLL

SUPPORT FOR 3AM LAST DRINKS AND PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY

KEY FINDINGS

- A majority (65.5%) of ACT residents support the ACT Government's recent proposal to introduce 3am last drinks for pubs, clubs and bars across the ACT.
- There is strong support for 3am last drinks across all age groups: 18 to 34 year olds (50.2%), 35 to 50 year olds (69.9%), 51 to 65 year olds (81.6%) and those over 65 (71.3%).
- Nearly 40 per cent (39.9%) of ACT residents consider built-up areas in and around the city centre, Civic, to be unsafe or very unsafe on a Saturday night.
- Respondents who report feeling unsafe or very unsafe in Civic are most likely to cite people affected by alcohol (36.2%) as the factor that contributes to this, almost double the proportion of residents who select people affected by drugs (20.1%).

ABOUT THE POLLING

The Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) commissioned ReachTEL to undertake polling of Australian Capital Territory (ACT) residents to gain an understanding on attitudes towards alcohol, perceptions of safety and support for trading hour 'last drinks' policies.

This study was conducted in the evening of 25 May 2016 from 6.00pm to 7.30pm, using an automated telephone-based survey system that called mobile and landline telephones. Telephone numbers and the person within the household were randomly selected, attaining a final sample of 1,184 voters. The results have been weighted by gender and age in order to reflect the current Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) population figures.

FINDINGS

LAST DRINKS POLICIES

Almost two thirds (65.5%) of ACT residents support the introduction of 3am last drinks for pubs, clubs and bars, 22.4% oppose the measures and 12.1% are unsure. There is strong support for this policy measure across all age groups, ranging from 50.2% of 18 to 34 year olds to 81.6% of 51 to 65 year olds.

The table below provides an overview of ACT residents' support for 3am last drinks.

	TOTAL (%)	MEN (%)	WOMEN (%)	18-34 YEAR OLDS (%)	35-50 YEAR OLDS (%)	51-65 YEAR OLDS (%)	OVER 65 (%)
Support	65.5	63.2	67.8	50.2	69.9	81.6	71.3
Oppose	22.4	25.7	19.2	35.4	18.2	10.9	14.7
Don't know	12.1	11.1	13.1	14.3	11.9	7.4	14.0

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Nearly 40 per cent (39.9%) of ACT residents consider built-up areas in and around the city centre, Civic, to be unsafe or very unsafe on a Saturday night, with 35.0% considering it safe or very safe, and 25.2% unsure. The table below provides an overview of ACT residents' perceptions of safety, by gender and age groups.

	TOTAL (%)	MEN (%)	WOMEN (%)	18-34 YEAR OLDS (%)	35-50 YEAR OLDS (%)	51-65 YEAR OLDS (%)	OVER 65 (%)
Very safe	4.0	4.1	3.8	5.4	3.4	3.5	2.0
Safe	31.0	35.6	26.6	34.4	34.8	26.7	19.5
SUB-TOTAL	35	39.7	30.4	39.8	38.2	30.2	21.5
Unsafe	30.9	32.5	29.4	29.9	29.6	30.6	37.6
Very unsafe	9.0	9.7	8.3	7.8	8.3	10.9	10.7
SUB-TOTAL	39.9	42.2	37.7	37.7	37.9	41.5	48.3
Don't know	25.2	18.1	31.9	22.6	23.9	28.3	30.2

ACT residents who indicated that Civic was unsafe or very unsafe were further asked what factors they believe contribute to this. People affected by alcohol is the most commonly cited factor (36.2%), followed by threatening behaviour (25.4%) and people affected by drugs (20.1%). The table below provides an overview of responses for ACT residents who indicated that they believe Civic is unsafe or very unsafe on a Saturday night, by gender and age groups.

	TOTAL (%)	MEN (%)	WOMEN (%)	18-34 YEAR OLDS (%)	35-50 YEAR OLDS (%)	51-65 YEAR OLDS (%)	OVER 65 (%)
People affected by alcohol	36.2	37.3	35.1	26.6	42.5	44.3	35.2
Threatening behaviour	25.4	32.8	17.5	24.7	30.6	21.7	23.9
People affected by drugs	20.1	16.8	23.7	25.9	16.4	17.0	18.3
Poor lighting	5.5	4.9	6.1	8.9	4.5	2.8	2.8
Large groups of people	5.3	4.5	6.1	2.5	3.7	9.4	8.5
Other reason	7.4	3.7	11.4	11.4	2.2	4.7	11.3

About the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education

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.