

Position Statement

Submission to the Inquiry on Personal Choice and Community Safety

We the undersigned injury prevention and public health organisations affirm the importance of governments' role in society to introduce legislation to ensure that all members of society have the opportunity to reach their potential to live long and happy lives.

The notion that we should reduce and remove regulations in support of individual freedom ignores the reality that we live in a complex and modern society. Unfortunately, people rarely factor in the consequences of their behaviour (on themselves and on others) and all too often it is community, family and Governments who are left to provide support and care for poor individual decision making.

As the fourth most common cause of both death (2007 to 2011) and hospitalisation (2008 to 2012) in Western Australia (1), injury is a public health priority that needs coordinated support and legislation across all areas of government.

Injury across the age span can be predicted and prevented through coordinated evidence-based policies, programs and legislation. Ongoing investment in these measures is imperative to improving the lives of Western Australians and critical for reducing the cost and burden of injury in Western Australia.

