



**Royal Commission**  
into Family Violence

**WITNESS STATEMENT OF MICHAEL THORN**

I, Michael Thorn, Chief Executive of 40 Thesiger Court, Deakin in the Australian Capital Territory, say as follows:

1. I am authorised by the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) to make this statement on its behalf.
2. I make this statement on the basis of my own knowledge, save where otherwise stated. Where I make statements based on information provided by others, I believe such information to be true.

**Current role**

3. I am the Chief Executive of FARE and I have held this position since January 2011. In this role I am responsible for leading FARE's efforts to stop alcohol-related harm in Australia. These efforts include initiating strategic research, developing and advocating policy change, mobilising communities and organisations to effect change, promoting open decision-making and holding the alcohol industry to account.

**Background and qualifications**

4. Prior to joining FARE, I worked for the federal government as a senior official in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. I was an Assistant Secretary in the department's Strategy and Delivery Division from May 2009 to January 2011.
5. Between 2001 and 2008, I worked as a policy director of the Western Australian Department of the Premier and Cabinet.
6. I have extensive experience in strategic policy development and implementation, having also been a management consultant in the fields of health, housing, Indigenous affairs, regional economic development and employment, and early in my career I was a policy adviser and chief of staff to a number of Western Australian Cabinet ministers. I hold a Bachelor of Arts (Politics) and a Graduate Diploma of Business (Finance).

**Submission to the Commission**

7. I refer to and rely on FARE's submission to the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence dated May 2015, which puts forward 17 recommendations on how the Victorian Government should work to reduce the incidence of alcohol-related family violence. A copy of that submission is attached to this statement and marked 'MT 1'.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Michael Thorn", positioned above a horizontal dotted line.

Michael Thorn  
Dated: 6 July 2015