

ISSUED BY THE NSW DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, LIQUOR & GAMING NSW

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TWO WEEK SUSPENSION FOR SYDNEY CBD BAR THAT SERVED ALCOHOL TO MINOR

The 88 Pocha small bar in Sydney's CBD has been ordered to shut for two weeks after being caught serving beer and soju to a 17-year-old girl.

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority has suspended the venue's liquor licence from 7 to 20 November for the offence which was detected by NSW Police on 7 December last year.

A group of six young people drinking at the Pitt St venue drew the attention of police officers due to their youthful appearance.

A young female among the group was unable to show identification and admitted to being aged 17 and to have drunk beer and soju at the venue.

When questioned by police, a staff member admitted the girl had not been asked for identification.

In suspending 88 Pocha's liquor licence under the [Minors Sanctions Scheme](#), the Authority also took into account the venue's poor compliance history.

This included operating outside authorised trading hours, selling bottles of soju in contravention of its liquor licence and allowing intoxication.

NSW Police submitted that the licensee, Mr Gyeongmin Lee, had failed to put in place proper measures to ensure alcohol is served responsibly.

Liquor & Gaming NSW Director of Compliance Operations, Sean Goodchild, said serving alcohol to minors is one of the most serious offences under NSW liquor laws due to the high risks of harm.

"This case should serve as a reminder to all venues as we head into the busy festive season," he said.

"Under the Minors Sanction Scheme, escalating penalties apply for selling alcohol to under 18s including liquor licence suspensions, cancellations and disqualifications.

"Licensed venues are advised to ask for age ID of any patrons who appear under the age of 25. Further information on underage drinking laws is available [here](#)."

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