

Fact sheet FS3023

# Summer festive season tips

The summer festive season brings longer days, warmer weather and a busy time for many venues. This fact sheet offers tips on safe and compliant trading during the festive period.

With end of year exams, schoolies, Christmas and other religious celebrations, New Year's Eve, Australia Day and ANZAC Day licensees and staff need to be extra vigilant regarding the sale and promotion of liquor.

## Under 18s

Tough sanctions and penalties apply when alcohol is sold to minors in licensed venues (including bottle shops). Penalties may include licence suspension and/or cancellation.

Best practice to prevent alcohol from being sold or supplied to under 18s at your venue is to ensure all ID presented is checked closely.

## What is acceptable ID?

- ▲ Current driver's licence
- ▲ Current passport
- ▲ Current NSW Photo Card
- ▲ Current proof of age card or driver's licence issued in another State or Territory or country
- ▲ Keypass issued by Australia Post.

### Note:

NSW Proof of Age cards are no longer produced and cannot be accepted.

## Intoxicated Patrons

As patronage increases, so does the risk of intoxication. Penalties apply when in breach of the liquor laws such as serving alcohol to an intoxicated person.

## Tips

- ▲ Intoxicated patrons cannot be served alcohol in licensed venues at any time.
- ▲ Intoxicated patrons are to be refused entry or removed from the venue immediately.
- ▲ Offer alternatives to full strength alcohol, such as low alcohol beer or wine, water and soft drinks, or coffee and tea.
- ▲ Employ RSA marshals to monitor patrons and intoxication in your venue.
- ▲ Set drink limits per customer.
- ▲ Ensure food is always available.

## How can I tell if someone is intoxicated?

The person's speech, balance, co-ordination or behaviour is noticeably affected. Check the GL4003 'Intoxication guidelines' fact sheet and provide these to staff.

**Did you know** intoxication offences can see you and your staff face fines of up to \$11,000 and penalty notices up to \$1,100.

## Liquor promotions

Many venues offer liquor promotions to attract customers during peak trading periods. Liquor promotions must comply with responsible serving practices.

Seven principles for compliance of liquor promotions:

1. The promotion must not have a special appeal to minors, because of the designs, names, motifs or characters in the promotion that are, or are likely to be, attractive to minors, or for any other reason.
2. The promotion must not be indecent or offensive.
3. The promotion must not involve the use of non-standard measures that encourages irresponsible drinking and is likely to result in intoxication.
4. The promotion should not use emotive descriptions or advertising that encourages irresponsible drinking and is likely to result in intoxication.

## Summer festive season tips

5. The promotion should not involve the provision of free drinks or extreme discounts, or discounts for a limited duration that creates an incentive for patrons to consume liquor more rapidly than they otherwise might.
6. The promotion should not otherwise encourage irresponsible, rapid or excessive consumption of liquor.
7. The promotion should not be otherwise considered to not be in the public interest.

**Remember** irresponsible liquor promotions risk fines of up to \$5,500.

### Safety and security

All venues want to ensure both their patrons and staff are safe whilst enjoying the festive season.

#### Tips

- ▲ Ensure adequate security staff are on hand at peak trading times.
- ▲ Brief security clearly on their roles and responsibilities.
- ▲ Operate to your venue patron capacity, as overcrowding can make responsible service of alcohol more difficult.
- ▲ Give patrons booking events or functions at your venue relevant information. Provide them with information on responsible drinking, patron behaviour, patron and staff safety, and alcohol related legislation.

### Signage

Signage can help staff and patrons understand their obligations at your venue.

#### Tips

- ▲ Complete our [Self-Audit Checklist](#) from the Liquor & Gaming NSW website to assist you with signage obligations.
- ▲ Make sure your signs are up to date and displayed correctly and clearly.

### Transport

Safe and effective transport is important to your patrons and creates a safe neighbourhood free from noise complaints and alcohol-related harm.

#### Tips

- ▲ Contact your local police, council, and liquor accord to discuss funding, partnership or local transport options.
- ▲ Promote safe transport options by briefing staff on available transport and with posters and electronic displays within your venue.
- ▲ Implement a designated driver strategy where those who have chosen to drive their friends home are given a wristband that entitles them to free soft drinks.

#### Contact us

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