

From: admin@openheavenchurch.org.au
To: [CIS Evaluation](#)
Cc: ["John Hemans"](#)
Subject: Evaluation of the Community Impact Statement requirement
Date: Tuesday, 25 July 2017 1:00:56 PM

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to voice my concerns about proposed changes to the process of granting liquor licenses in New South Wales.

My concerns are –

1. My understanding is that under the proposed changes, only residents living within a 100 metre radius of the proposed venues have a right to lodge formal objections to the granting of a license. This would suggest that the effects of a liquor license on a community are limited to that 100 metre radius. As a pastor ministering regularly to people with drug, gambling and alcohol problems, I can assure you that a 100 metre “limit” on potential harms is a nonsense. Problem gamblers and drinkers will travel as far as necessary to feed their addictions.
Artificially limiting potentially “acceptable” objections to such a small range of people or groups would deny a voice to many people who would be at risk if unsuitable licenses are granted in vulnerable areas.
2. The process of lodging an objection to a license is prohibitively convoluted, expensive and requires legal advice, and so the process naturally favours those with the finances available to hire legal advice on an extended basis. Community groups and other concerned parties are disadvantaged. I would request that the full and sustained funding of a professional and fully independent Community Defenders Office (CDO) to support and assist communities to successfully navigate the complex legal mirror maze of alcohol and gambling regulatory processes in both the planning and licensing jurisdictions be established so that those objecting can do so on a level playing field.

Thank you for your consideration of this submission.

God bless,

John Hemans



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