

Fact sheet 3 GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO INDEPENDENT LIQUOR LAW REVIEW

Extension of takeaway alcohol sales

Why is the Government proposing to extend takeaway alcohol sales?

The Government has considered a wide range of feedback and evidence and decided to relax the 10pm restriction on takeaway sales back to 11pm.

The Callinan review proposed extending the sale of takeaway alcohol from 10pm to 11pm and allowing home deliveries until midnight.

The review also recognised that objectors to the restriction can overlook that people should be able to plan ahead and purchase their alcohol before it's needed, given it is not a highly perishable item.

Despite this, Mr Callinan found that:

"The sale of takeaway alcohol, whether before or after 10pm, makes little or no contribution to violence and anti-social behaviour in the Precincts, even less so when it is home delivered."

(Callinan Review Report, para. 9.10)

The Government proposes that both takeaway alcohol sales and home deliveries be permitted until 11pm across the state. This will create a level playing field between retail and home delivery sales and for regional NSW where home delivery isn't widely available.

In terms of takeaway alcohol sales contributing to domestic violence, it is extremely difficult to make a definitive link with the 10pm restriction.

Over the past eight years, rates of alcohol-related domestic violence have dropped by an average of five per cent each year in NSW. There has also been modest growth in packaged liquor licences over that time. This long-term trend indicates that other factors are contributing to the ongoing reductions achieved.

The Government is strongly committed to further reducing domestic violence and it remains one of the NSW Premier's Priorities. Investment in specialist domestic violence services and initiatives has recently been doubled to more than \$300 million over four years.

How will the changes be monitored and evaluated?

The later trading times will be carefully monitored by Liquor & Gaming NSW and formally evaluated after two years, with an interim assessment of key data conducted at 12 months.

A full evaluation conducted after two years will also allow sufficient time for a range of data to be collected to inform a more comprehensive evaluation.

Any impacts of the reforms on key indicators such as alcohol related violence and injury and business activity will be carefully examined through this evaluation.

Industry supervision and enforcement

Liquor & Gaming NSW conducts intelligence led and risk-based industry supervision and enforcement activities across NSW and has extensive powers under NSW liquor laws to target irresponsible attitudes or practices towards the promotion and sale of liquor.

Further information about key reforms to the NSW liquor laws can be found in the other related fact sheets detailed below:

- 1 – Overview of NSW Government reforms to liquor laws
- 2 – Lockout laws in Sydney CBD and Kings Cross
- 4 – Small bar liquor licence changes
- 5 – Further changes to NSW liquor laws

8 December 2016