



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Thursday 10 March 2016

### **STRATHFIELD CAFE LIQUOR LICENCE SUSPENDED FOR SERVING ALCOHOL TO UNDER 18S**

A Strathfield café has had its liquor licence suspended for 21 days after failing to check age IDs and then serving the equivalent of 58.4 standard drinks to a group of teenagers celebrating their high school graduations.

The Beauty & The Beast café has had its liquor licence suspended from 10am on Thursday 10 March 2016 until 11.59pm on Wednesday 20 March 2016 under the Minors Sanctions Scheme.

On the evening of 17 September 2015, a group of seven male and female minors aged 16 and 17, along with an 18-year-old attended the café and were served 11 bottles of fruit flavoured Soju, a Korean spirit with 16% alcohol content, and four bottles of regular Soju with 16.9% alcohol content.

When questioned by Police, three minors said no proof-of-age identification was checked and one advised he had not had issues purchasing alcohol at the cafe prior. The then manager (now licensee) admitted proof-of-age details were not requested from the group.

One of the minors admitted to being very intoxicated and another was detected low range drink driving early the following morning.

Liquor & Gaming NSW Director of Compliance and Enforcement Anthony Keon said holding a liquor licence carries a high level of responsibility, especially in relation to the sale and supply of alcohol to minors.

“Selling alcohol to minors is illegal – there are no exceptions ,” he said.

“Preventing alcohol sales to minors is easily avoided by simply checking IDs for all customers who appear under the age of 25.

“In this instance, the number of minors, the large amount of alcohol, the lack of preventive procedures in place, and the high risk of harm increased the seriousness of the matter.

“Licensed venues need to ensure there are controls in place to prevent the sale of alcohol to minors and they are consistently applied and followed by all staff – otherwise they will face strict sanctions.”

The café is the sixth licensed venue to have its liquor licence suspended under the Minors Sanctions Scheme.

**ENDS**