

Fact sheet

Industry information: Small Bars changes

On 8 December 2016, the NSW Government announced it will maintain Sydney's lockout and last drinks laws and implement key recommendations of the statutory review by the Hon Ian Callinan AC QC.

Background

On 8 December 2016, the NSW Government announced its response to the statutory review of the lockout and last drinks laws by the Hon Ian Callinan AC QC. The announcement included an increase in patron capacity for small bar licences from 60 to 100 across the State and that eligible small bars in the Sydney CBD and Kings Cross precincts may trade until 2am.

When will the changes come into effect?

The Government announced on Wednesday 14 December that the patron capacity and trading hour changes for small bars would commence from Friday 16 December, in time for the festive season.

From 16 January 2017, venues operating under an on-premises or general bar licence will be able to apply to convert to a small bar licence free of charge for 12 months.

What has changed?

Patron capacity has increased from 60 to 100 and authorised trading times have been extended to 2am for those small bars in the Sydney CBD and Kings Cross precincts.

On-premises or general bar licences may be converted to a small bar licence at no cost for 12 months. Information on how to apply will be provided on the Liquor & Gaming NSW website.

I have a small bar licence, what do I need to do to increase my capacity?

Nothing. From Friday 16 December, the number of patrons allowed in your venue automatically increases to 100 people, provided your development consent allows that number of people in the venue.

I have a small bar licence in the Sydney CBD or Kings Cross precincts, what do I need to do to trade until 2am?

If your development consent allows trading between midnight and 2am, then you are authorised to trade to that time. For example, if it allows you to trade until 1am, you can trade until that time.

You will need to apply to your local council to amend your development consent conditions to trade until 2am.

Additional considerations for small bars

With an increase in patrons or trading hours at your venue, you should ensure appropriate measures are in place to meet obligations under NSW liquor laws including responsible service of alcohol requirements. You should consider revising your venue safety plan to ensure appropriate arrangements are in place such as additional security and staff, as well as RSA marshals, food and access to free water.

Further information about the changes to the takeaway and home delivery liquor sales can be found on the Liquor & Gaming NSW website:

liquorandgaming.justice.nsw.gov.au

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