

Fact sheet FS3118

Industry information: Changes to the Minors Sanctions Scheme

The NSW Government has announced a range of liquor law reforms that will come into effect from 1 October 2017. The changes will improve the effectiveness of the Minors Sanctions Scheme that targets venues that sell alcohol to under-18s.

The NSW Government remains committed to minimising the risk of harm to minors associated with consuming liquor at a young age. Significant penalties will continue to be imposed on venues that sell liquor to minors under the Minors Sanctions Scheme (the scheme).

Background

Introduced in December 2014, the Minors Sanctions Scheme is an escalating sanctions regime that applies significant penalties for selling alcohol to minors. The sanctions include licence suspension and cancellation, and may be triggered if any person is convicted of an offence of selling liquor to a minor on licensed premises.

What has changed?

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority Board (the Authority) Board will now be responsible for determining whether to suspend a venue's liquor licence, for up to 28 days, after a first offence. Licensees will also be able to appeal the decision to the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT).

When will the changes happen?

The changes on 1 October 2017.

Why is the Government making these changes?

The decision to suspend a venue's licence under the scheme is a significant one that impacts venues and the staff they employ. Transferring this responsibility to belong to the independent decision maker, and making it reviewable by NCAT, ensures the scheme is fairer while continuing to act as a strong deterrent to selling liquor to minors.

More information

For more information and liquor law reform fact sheets visit liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au