

Imperial Hotel Erskineville bar staff suspended for taking illicit drugs and alcohol shots

A former bar supervisor at the Imperial Hotel in Erskineville has been banned from working in any licensed venue in NSW for six months after allegedly consuming and supplying illicit drugs while on the job.

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority has suspended the bar supervisor's responsible service of alcohol (RSA) certification following an application by the Office of Liquor, Gaming & Racing (OLGR).

The six month suspension will be in place from Thursday 1 October 2015 until midnight on 31 March 2016.

A former bar attendant at the hotel has also had his RSA certification suspended by the Authority for seven days from Monday 5 October 2015 until Sunday 11 October 2015.

On 14 June 2015, OLGR inspectors observed the two men consuming illicit drugs in full view of patrons while working at the Imperial Hotel.

The bar supervisor removed two ecstasy capsules from a bottle and gave one to the bar attendant before both men consumed the drugs at the bar in front of patrons. After consuming the capsules, the bar attendant continued to serve alcohol to patrons. The supervisor also poured shots of alcohol which he and the bar attendant consumed in front of patrons.

OLGR Director of Compliance and Enforcement Anthony Keon said the two men had failed their obligations under the Liquor Act.

It is totally unacceptable for licensed venue staff to consume illicit drugs or alcohol while on the job, Mr Keon said.

Not only is it illegal but a combination of drugs and high strength alcohol shots can be dangerous and their effects would impair a person's ability to carry out their responsible service of alcohol duties safely, competently and as required by the legislation, Mr Keon said.

Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority Chief Executive Micheil Brodie said: The bar supervisor's role placed him in a position of authority and his actions added to a permissive and unsafe environment for both staff and the public. A suspension of his competency card for six months is an appropriate and reasonable response.

The Authority has determined that a suspension of the bar attendant's competency card for seven days is appropriate after considering his acknowledgment of responsibility and remorse and his new employment in a more responsible environment.

Persons with a suspended RSA competency card are not permitted to work in any capacity as an employee in any licensed premises in NSW and a failure to comply may result in penalties up to \$5,500.