



MEDIA RELEASE

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\$2,000 IN FINES FOR MARSFIELD BOTTLE SHOP OWNER WHO SOLD ALCOHOL TO MINOR

The licensee of a bottle shop at Marsfield in Sydney's north-west has been fined a total of \$2,000 for offences relating to the sale of alcohol to a 17-year-old youth.

Mrs Ling Yun Qian, owner of Marsfield Cellars (Liquor Stop), pleaded guilty at Downing Centre Local Court to four offences following an investigation by Liquor & Gaming NSW.

During a covert operation on 3 July 2015, Liquor & Gaming NSW inspectors caught Mrs Qian selling a 700ml bottle of brandy to a male youth without asking for proof of age.

When questioned by the inspectors, the youth said he did not have identification. It was later determined he was aged 17 at the time of the sale.

In a Court hearing on Friday 8 July, Mrs Qian was fined \$1,200 for selling alcohol to the minor, \$400 for selling alcohol without a current Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) certification, and \$400 for "permit/cause employee to sell alcohol without RSA certification".

She was also found guilty of failing to display a prescribed notice stating it is illegal to sell alcohol to minors. No conviction was recorded for this offence.

Liquor & Gaming NSW's Director of Compliance Operations, Sean Goodchild, said the case highlights the need for all licensees and staff involved in the sale of alcohol to ask for age ID of any customers who appear under the age of 25.

"The law couldn't be any clearer. Selling alcohol to minors is illegal - no exceptions," Mr Goodchild said.

"Any person who sells liquor to a minor can expect to face strict sanctions, including criminal prosecution, and suspension or cancellation of their liquor licence. Maximum penalties for the offence are an \$11,000 fine and/or 12 months jail. These are among the most serious offences under the NSW Liquor Act.

"Liquor & Gaming NSW continues to conduct both overt and covert operations across the State to ensure venues are complying with the law."

The Steyne Hotel at Manly had its liquor licence suspended for seven days from 4 July to 11 July 2016 after its staff were caught serving alcohol to minors in September 2015.

Under the [Minors Sanctions Scheme](#), escalating penalties apply for selling alcohol to under-18s including liquor licence suspensions, cancellations and disqualifications.

Further information on underage drinking laws is available [here](#).

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