



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 21 March 2017

FORMER BAR MANAGER \$90,000 OUT OF POCKET FOR BLATANT BREACHES OF LIQUOR LAWS AND HINDERING PROBE

The former manager of a Bankstown karaoke bar who committed serious liquor law breaches including allowing dangerous levels of intoxication and hindering a Liquor & Gaming NSW investigation has been fined \$19,000 and ordered to pay \$20,000 in legal costs.

David Trinh, former manager of Replay Karaoke, pleaded guilty to 20 offences in Downing Centre Local Court on Tuesday 20 March.

In a separate action last month relating to the same conduct, the NSW Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority banned Mr Trinh from running licensed venues for 10 years and ordered him to pay almost \$50,000 in fines and costs.

The court penalty brings the total amount of fines and costs for Mr Trinh's irresponsible conduct to almost \$90,000.

Liquor & Gaming NSW plain clothes inspectors attended the venue in April 2017 and detected numerous liquor law breaches including patrons drinking directly from full bottles of spirits and shots being served contrary to licence conditions.

A severely intoxicated female patron was seen unable to stand without assistance, vomiting into a bucket provided by venue staff. Inspectors were also able to covertly buy a full bottle of whiskey and purchase liquor outside the venue's approved trading hours.

Mr Trinh also refused to comply with Liquor & Gaming NSW's request to obtain the venue's CCTV and alcohol sales data.

In sentencing, Magistrate Donnelly noted the most serious offence was Mr Trinh's failure to assist the Liquor & Gaming NSW investigation, saying this was "akin to an offence against justice".

Liquor & Gaming NSW director of compliance operations Sean Goodchild said both the ILGA penalty and court prosecution show that disregarding NSW liquor laws and hindering Liquor & Gaming NSW inspectors incurs serious consequences.

"Mr Trinh's offending is one of the worst cases of liquor law breaches in recent years, and the penalties imposed by both ILGA and the Court reflect this," he said.

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