

Kings Cross ID scanners review

Fact sheet

How does the ID scanner system work?

In June 2014, the NSW Government introduced ID scanners at 35 high-risk venues in Kings Cross to improve safety and reduce alcohol-related crime and violence.

Between 9.30pm and 1.30am, patrons entering these venues must have their photo ID scanned and be photographed.

The system helps to keep out known troublemakers who have been banned from venues. Patrons subjected to banning orders are prevented from entering all 35 venues with ID scanners.

The system also helps police identify people who have committed crimes inside and outside venues.

There are strict privacy controls, with data from the scanners available only to police investigating crimes.

Why has the Government reviewed the ID scanner system?

The review - which was required by law - has assessed how effective the system has been and identified possible improvements.

It has included feedback from a wide array of stakeholders including the liquor industry, police, business groups and the wider community.

The review's findings are being assessed as part of the Government's wider consideration of liquor laws including the Callinan review of 1.30am lockouts and 3am last drinks in the Sydney CBD and Kings Cross and the statewide 10pm restriction on takeaway alcohol sales.

What has the review found?

ID scanners are effective in reducing alcohol-related crime and violence in Kings Cross.

The scanners have helped keep known troublemakers out of venues. Since the system began, scanners have stopped banned patrons from entering venues 73 times and there have been no reports of scanners failing to stop a banned patron.

NSW Police have confirmed ID scanners play an important role in the investigation of alcohol-related crime.

Privacy controls for ID scanners are adequate.

What has the review recommended?

- ▲ Keep the ID scanner system in high-risk venues in Kings Cross.
- ▲ Configure ID scanners to allow sharing of data on patrons banned by venues rather than police – if privacy controls can be retained.
- ▲ Any extension of ID scanners beyond Kings Cross should be considered in light of the Callinan review.