

To whom it may concern:

I respectfully request this late submission due to my recent trip to Cuba and lack of Internet.

Hi there,

I was the licensee at Hugos Lounge on Bayswater rd, before it closed in August from a lack of patronage. I was the licensee before during and after the implementation of the ID scanners.

I believe ID scanners are an integral part of curbing alcohol fuelled violence if implemented in a fair and reasonable way.

I saw the benefits and the downfalls of the Kings Cross scanners which I would like to share with you.

Having the scanners only operating in one precinct was part of the reason patrons chose to avoid Kings Cross (it was too much hassle to provide in date appropriate ID, especially for females who would often leave it in another handbag from a previous night out). This meant that very often we saw a group of patrons having one or two members of heir group be refused entry. This, the whole group would go elsewhere. (Out of the precinct, which was often within walking distance from Bayswater rd). This redirection of patron flow only moves them, but doesn't 'weed out the bad eggs' causing problems and being antisocial.

A better solution would be to have ID scanners working throughout the whole city if not the state. The lack of ability for licensees to ban a patron in kings cross must be addressed if this were to happen. Perhaps an OLGR run course to ensure the correct ban/label were placed upon the correct patron by a license. The scanners should be linked and bans/labels shared, so that if a patron were to cause a disturbance, display aggression etc the scanners would display a warning to other venues about this patron effectively preventing the troublesome individual from entering. This means that patrons will learn very quickly that if they are aggressive or antisocial they will loose their privilege to enter a licensed venue. Obviously this relies upon highly trained licensees (a requirement that has been relaxed by OLGR, and should be reviewed).

Verifying ID if expired or unreadable at police stations could be a way to give patrons a second chance if they had their wallet stolen or lost on the night. The RMS takes up to 3 weeks to deliver a replacement license. During this time they cannot enter a licensed premise with an ID scanner as their paper license doesn't scan. These issues should be addressed to prevent patrons becoming understandably frustrated and upset, which can lead to aggression and violence.

There was no government advertising about the scanner implementation, which again lead to frustrated customers refusing to return to the precinct. It was up to venues to educate patrons about scanners, which we did. Apart from including scanner requirements on websites and marketing material, there is not much else an individual venue can do to educate patrons. This is another reason why the scanners should work throughout the state, not just in a precinct.

Immediately after the scanners were implemented we saw a dramatic reduction in handbag theft. This was a very welcomed benefit.

My apologies for the breif email, but I have limited wifi connection.

Please feel free to contact me regarding this on: Adam.hart0007@gmail.com

Warm regards

Adam