21 October 2015

New Hampton - Hotel Licence Number: 102909
9-15 Bayswater Road, Kings Cross NSW 2010

RE: Kings Cross ID Scanner Review
Email: **IDscanner.review@olgr.nsw.gov.au**

Dear Sir,

The media release by Troy Grant on the 10 August 2015 stated that there were over 1.5 million IDs scanned in Kings Cross. With the detection of just 17 long term banning orders and 6 further breaches for temporary 48 hour banning orders.

These statistics fail to show the very large number of law-abiding citizen that are turned away each night. About 1 in 6 patrons are not permitted entry to my venue because of the ID scanner. Based on my venue, that's around 250,000 people in Kings Cross.

Many people over 30 years of age do not carry ID and are surprized that they need ID to enter a venue in Kings Cross after 9pm. People who live in Kings Cross or the City quite often don't have a car or a drivers licence. Recently I could not allow a former World War 2 soldier to enter my venue he arrived by means of his walking frame. He did not have a driver's licence or other acceptable ID.

A typical example would be a group of six tourists around 25 to 35 years of age they arrive in Kings Cross for a night out. One of the older tourist not believing he will need proof of age leaves his passport in his hotel room for safe keeping. And because this one tourist can't get entry the whole group decide to go somewhere else. This problem is quite common for interstate Australian tourist as well.

On another occasion we had a large number of potential patrons from the Japanese navy who tried to use their naval ID's they were not accepted by our ID scanner. Even expired driver licences are not accepted even though the patron is clearly over 30 years old.

One Wednesday night I had a couple come in for dinner, after their entrée at 8.56pm the gentleman went out the front of the venue for a smoke. When he finished his smoke the ID scanner was up and running we could not allow him to re-enter as he had no ID. We were forced to put his main course a steak in a doggy bag and sent him and his girlfriend home.

Furthermore, one Saturday night we had a group of 50 people consisting of young people and parents who had arrived for a 21st function at our venue. The 21st birthday boy's grandmother went out the front of the venue at 9.30pm to signal her friends the location of our venue. She did not have acceptable ID to re-enter because she no longer drove a car. So unfortunately we could not let her back into the venue. This incident cost us a lot of goodwill and very nearly led to a violent outcome.

For every person with a 'Long Term Banning Order' stopped from entry by the ID scanner there are 1000's of law-abiding people each week who have their nights ruined.

The direct cost to run our ID scanner in the last year was around $50,000. Some venues need to operate two ID scanners. Furthermore the loss of 1 in 6 law abiding patrons has resulted in an estimated $6,000 loss of turnover each week for our business alone.

Moreover the ID scanners were a contributing factor in the closure of multimillion dollar venues like Soho nightclub, Goldfish bar and Hugo's Lounge to name a few. Kings Cross is no longer a late night tourist attraction we don't allow people to enter and there are few places left to go out. The continuation of the ID scanners may contribute to the closure of the last few remaining late night venues in Kings Cross.

I concede the ID scanner help police catch criminals however there appears to be only 3 noteworthy criminal incidents in the last year.
- A women throwing a plastic glass at another patron fined $1,000
- A man had his Jaw broken following an argument at a fast food outlet
- Two women were charged after allegedly assaulting a male patron outside a bar

I believe the disadvantages and costs associated with the ID scanner far outweigh their public benefit. The biggest crime in the last year was the $50,000 loss experienced by each venue owner and the ensuing closure of their venues.

Yours Sincerely
Danny McPherson

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