

EVALUATION OF THE SPECIAL LICENCE CONDITIONS UNDER THE NSW GOVERNMENT'S KINGS CROSS PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

In September 2012, the NSW Government released its Kings Cross Plan of Management, which provided a comprehensive set of measures to reduce alcohol-related violence and improve the safety and amenity of Kings Cross. A first tranche of special licence conditions under the Plan of Management was introduced in December 2012. A second tranche of conditions was introduced in December 2013 under the *Liquor Amendment (Kings Cross Plan of Management) Act 2013*.

ARTD Consultants were engaged to undertake an evaluation of these special licence conditions. The objectives of the evaluation were to assess:

- venue compliance with the licence conditions in Kings Cross;
- the effectiveness of the NSW Government's regulatory intervention in Kings Cross since December 2012 in terms of reducing alcohol-related violence and improving the safety and amenity of Kings Cross; and
- stakeholder perceptions of the appropriateness and effectiveness of the Government's regulatory intervention in Kings Cross since December 2012.

Key stakeholders were consulted for the evaluation, including government agencies, industry bodies, licensees, patrons, community groups, and residents.

The key evaluation findings were as follows:

- While an overall 5% reduction in alcohol-related assaults was found after the introduction of the Tranche I conditions, a statistically significant 26% decrease in alcohol-related assaults was found after the introduction of the Tranche II conditions (though only 3 months of data post Tranche II were available due to the introduction of further measures in February 2014).
- The number of alcohol-related assaults on licensed premises decreased by 18% following the introduction of the Tranche I conditions.
- There was a significant decrease in offensive conduct incidents following the introduction of both Tranche I and Tranche II conditions, and a significant decrease in offensive language incidents following the introduction of the Tranche II conditions. It should be noted that these data are heavily dependent on police activity.
- The special licence conditions introduced under the Kings Cross Plan of Management had some positive impacts on perceptions of safety, particularly among residents, and inside licensed venues, but many patrons still feel unsafe in Kings Cross.

The evaluation did not examine the effectiveness of the reforms introduced in February 2014 (e.g. 1:30am lock outs and 3am liquor sales cessation). A statutory review of 1:30am lock outs and 3am liquor sales cessation in the Kings Cross and Sydney CBD entertainment precincts will be undertaken in 2016. In addition, NSW Treasury will consider the effectiveness of these reforms in its evaluation of the Sydney CBD Plan of Management.

More information

Further information about the evaluation report will be made available following its consideration by the Government. If you have any questions about the evaluation, please contact Gavin Faunce, Manager, Monitoring & Evaluation on (02) 9995 0402 or email gavin.faunce@olgr.nsw.gov.au.

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