

30 January 2018

Mr Jonathan Horton QC
The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority
PO Box 8325
PARRAMATTA WESTFIELD NSW 2150

NEWCASTLE CBD LIQUOR LICENCE CONDITIONS REVIEW
Submission by the Australian Health Promotion Association

Dear Mr Horton

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above review.

Australia is one of the healthiest countries in the world largely because of effective health promotion practice - creating social and environmental conditions that enable Australians to enjoy a healthy and happy life. The Australian Health Promotion Association (AHPA[®]) is the peak body for health promotion in Australia.

To maintain and improve our quality of life, Australia must continue to address the misuse of alcohol, which is a major contributor to Australia's total disease burden, costing more than 36 billion dollars annually.¹

The current Newcastle 'conditions' were prompted in 2008 by community concerns about increasing alcohol-related violence and anti-social behaviour in Newcastle CBD. A range of policies were developed through the state government, focusing on restricting consumption of alcohol and the late-trading licensed premises in the Newcastle CBD.

The Newcastle conditions resulted in a 37% reduction in night-time alcohol-related assaults and no displacement of harm to adjacent late-night districts.² Five years on, the positive effects were sustained with alcohol-related assaults down by 21% per-hour on average.³

The Newcastle conditions are now internationally recognised and have paved the way for evidence based policy in other jurisdictions such including Sydney's Kings Cross, achieving similar marked reductions in alcohol related violence.

Newcastle City Council has built on this success to achieve a more vibrant and safe night time economy. Alcohol industry claims that Newcastle's nightlife has been 'destroyed' by the conditions are discredited by data from Newcastle Police demonstrating a 140% increase in on-premise liquor licenses in the Newcastle CBD since 2008.

Newcastle residents clearly support the conditions. A recent household survey found that 77% of community members supported the reduced trading hours and 80% per cent of community members supported the lock-out conditions.⁴

In short, it is evident that the Newcastle conditions are working and should not be watered down. AHPA strongly recommends that the conditions remain in place.

Yours sincerely



Paul Klarenaar
Director & Advocacy Lead
Australian Health Promotion Association

References

- ¹ FARE (2010) Report: The cost of alcohol goes beyond the drinker
<http://www.fare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/24-08-10-Cost-of-Alcohol-Misuse-Goes-Beyond-the-Drinker.pdf>
- ² Kypri, K., Jones, C., McElduff, P., & Barker, D.J. (2010). Effects of restricting pub closing times on night-time assaults in an Australian city. *Addiction* 106 (2): 303-310.
- ³ Kypri, K., McElduff, P. & Miller, P. (2014). Restrictions in pub closing times and lockouts in Newcastle, Australia five years on. *Drug and Alcohol Review* 33(3): 323-6.
- ⁴ Wiggers, J. Presentation. Research evidence for reducing alcohol-related harm and impact of Newcastle s104 licensing conditions - 2008-2011. University of Newcastle.

