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

29 Jan 2018

Dear Mr Horton

**SUBMISSION TO THE *NEWCASTLE CBD LIQUOR LICENCE CONDITIONS REVIEW***

As a general practitioner working in suburban Newcastle, the *Newcastle CBD Liquor Licence Conditions Review* is of great importance to my practice.

It is not unusual for me to see young men who have been injured in assaults on the streets of Newcastle, always late and night and frequently close to licensed premises. We provide acute care for the milder spectrum of injury the next day, and these cases have generally not been reported to police or recorded in any statistical collection.

Anecdotally these injuries occur outside venues as people move from one licensed premises to another. This would suggest that the worst possible license arrangement would have a diversity of closing times, with people moving to later closing venues as the night goes on. The policy of a uniform one way door after 1 am is an important contributor to preventing aggregations of intoxicated patrons on nearby streets.

I am impressed by the evidence of a 79% reduction in non domestic assaults in Newcastle and Newcastle West on Friday and Saturday nights over the last decade, and it would be wrong to water down the license changes that led to these important gains.

It especially seems a dangerous precedent to give exemptions from the rules to some premises even if they seem to be low risk venues. A single fixed set of rules becomes part of the local culture and everyone adapts to it. I believe patchwork rules will have negative consequences in the long run.

Yours Sincerely

Dr Ben Ewald