

Dr. N.G Humphreys

Ph. [REDACTED]  
6<sup>th</sup> February 2018

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

Dear Mr Horton

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

This is a submission to the *Newcastle CBD Liquor Licence Conditions Review*. I am a medical practitioner who lives and works in the Newcastle CBD and Carrington. I am a General Practitioner with 40 years experience, in both rural and remote Australia and more recently for much of the past 20 years in Newcastle.

I was also Clinical Director, Team Leader, for GP Access After Hours (GPAAH) for part of this time. GPAAH has five (5) after hours clinics running every day of the year across the Newcastle area. I personally have well over 20 years experience working after hours in rural and remote towns and hospitals, and have had plenty of experience seeing and having to deal with and treat both the inebriated, and the innocent sober, and their families. Alcohol caused violence, trauma, injury, and grief is all too common in most of Australia. I have had to see, treat, and manage the sometimes devastating effects of alcohol on all types of people, in Accident and Emergency Departments, in hospital wards, and occasionally in Court and at funerals.

I lived in an apartment directly facing onto the foreshore walk-way on Newcastle harbour, near the Honeysuckle precinct, looking directly as people walked along the foreshore for about 10 years, before and after the Newcastle Conditions commenced. I, and my family and young son, frequently witnessed individuals and groups of drunks, all too often young and female, yelling, screaming, fighting, and often calling out abuse. Frequently they were carrying glasses of (what looked like) alcohol, or bottles of alcohol, drinking as they walked along, with the girls also often carrying their shoes. Some still walk along, usually at night, carrying glasses or open bottles of alcohol, drinking and passing around the alcohol as they meander past from one venue to another.

The violence, the public disruption, the intimidation of members of the public walking past, and the public displays of violence, and the visible violent and abusive behaviour, along with

relatively frequent phone calls to the Newcastle Police station, all decreased after the commencement of the Newcastle Conditions.

I now live in Carrington, which is adjacent to the Honeysuckle part of Central Newcastle, and close to Hamilton. I go to Hamilton on most days, and occasionally still drive down Beaumont Street, and the several pubs, at night.

I am now the senior GP working at the Hunter Street Medical Centre in Newcastle West. Many of our patients have mental health and/or drug and alcohol problems. Many of our patients are alcoholics, and I know that a few of them have been off alcohol for many years. I very frequently shop at Marketown, which is the only shopping centre in Newcastle CBD. I still have very frequent, almost daily, exposure to the effects of alcohol in the Newcastle CBD, and still see patients coming in having been assaulted the night before, because of alcohol.

I also still see the beneficial effects of the initial Newcastle Conditions, and I strongly request that these conditions be extended and increased. I very very strongly support the retention of the current conditions, **but with their expansion to other suburbs in Newcastle** which from Police statistics have a high level of alcohol related disturbances. Especially in Hamilton NSW 2303.

I would also **request that the conditions are tightened, and that additional conditions are imposed** so as to ensure that serious penalties to any members of the public who are drinking alcohol in public, or who are carrying open bottles of alcohol or glasses of alcohol in public, **AND TO THE HOTEL OR PUB WHO ALLOWED THEM TO LEAVE THEIR ESTABLISHMENT CARRYING SUCH ALCOHOL ONTO THE STREET.**

I am disgusted that the AHA and the local council have tried to have these Conditions removed, without formal public discussion and open public meetings, and that it is only at the last minute that a few members of the public have become aware of your Review, when submissions to your Review close tomorrow.

Newcastle has improved greatly as a city in which one can live and work more safely, since the Newcastle CBD Liquor Licence Conditions commenced, and with your help, and with increased and stronger conditions the City of Newcastle, and all of its inhabitants and visitors, can only benefit. Many more people now live in and around the Newcastle CBD than when the Conditions commenced. In addition, many more residential apartments, Aged Care residential facilities, and Child Care facilities are currently being built in and adjoining the Newcastle CBD.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Nigel Humphreys  
BSc, MB, ChB, FACRRM