



# **MOTHERS AND BABIES RESEARCH CENTRE**

**DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENDOCRINOLOGY**

**HMRI, John Hunter Hospital & The University of Newcastle**

**Director: Laureate Professor Roger Smith AM  
MBBS, Hons., PhD, FRACP, FRANZCOG, FSRB**

**Email: [Roger.Smith@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Roger.Smith@newcastle.edu.au)**

**Website: <http://www.mothersbabies.com>**

Mr. Jonathan Horton QC

The Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority PO Box 8325. PARRAMATTA  
WESTFIELD NSW 2150

Re The Newcastle CBD Liquor Licence Conditions Review

I write as Director of the Mothers and Babies Research Centre of the Hunter Medical Research Institute.

In my role as a research leader I am often in the position of organising national and international conferences. I would like to draw to your attention that prior to the introduction of the Newcastle restricted drinking hours I endeavoured to bring medical conferences to Newcastle. Regretfully my international visitors were accosted on the streets by intoxicated locals and threatened with assault.

Consequently I stopped bringing conferences to Newcastle. That changed with the new licencing laws, Newcastle is now a place to which I am proud to bring international and interstate visitors. I beseech you not to put this at risk.

The growth in tourists to Newcastle is because of our licencing laws, not in spite of them. Witness the recent vote for Merewether as the best metropolitan beach in Australia. Young people can now enjoy evenings with a relatively low risk of random acts of violence, this was definitely not the case prior to the community led introduction of restricted licencing hours.

Yours sincerely

Roger Smith AM

Senior Principal National Health and Medical Research Fellow