

Hon. Ian Callinan AC
Liquor Law Review
GPO Box 7060
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Hon. Ian Callinan AC,

Please find below the topics I consider relevant to the Liquor Law Review.

Liquor Act amended

Under Part 5 - Division 1 - Section 73 (5) a venue has to ask an intoxicated person to leave the premises, contact, or attempt to contact, a police officer for assistance in removing the person from the premises, and refuse to serve the person any alcohol after becoming aware that the person is intoxicated.

This means a person who is intoxicated is then chucked out on to the street. The Liquor act should be changed so that a licensed premise has an obligation to attempt to sober up an intoxicated person unless they are violent or quarrelsome. The licence premise should take all reasonable steps to ensure patrons do not become intoxicated (Section 4a1 - RSA trained staff, Water available etc). However, if it is identified that a patron is intoxicated the licensed premise should –

- a) Refuse to serve the person any alcohol after becoming aware that the person is intoxicated
- b) Provide a clearly viewable indicator that the person is intoxicated so all staff and compliance officers are aware
- c) Provide the suspected intoxicated person with water and a food option at no charge
- d) Warn the person if they are seen to attempt consumption of alcohol or to remove/conceal the intoxication indicator, they will be ejected from the licensed premise.

Drink Limits imposed like at Major Events

- 4 drinks per person from 10pm
- 2 drinks per person from 12pm (enables staff to monitor patrons for intoxication)
- no shots after midnight - top shelf spirits allowed to be served neat (\$15 a nip minimum).
- Venue required to remain open an hour after last drinks.

Licences Premises to provide food options (unless exempt)

Licensed premise should be required to provide food options whilst serving alcohol unless exempt (small bars, live music venue, bottle shops etc).

Minimum Staff to Patron Ratio

People get aggressive when a venue is too full with not enough staff to serve and supervise, as well as a maximum patron number there should be a minimum staff to patron ratio (1 staff member per 30 patrons). A venue would then not be allowed to have staff to patron ratio exceeded, even if it was under it's maximum patron number.

New Regulations for large Venues

Any new large scale venues should require a furniture and design survey aimed at reducing possible conflicts.

"Manipulation of the physical environment of pubs/clubs

- *No 'hidden' alcoves that prevent the easy monitoring of behaviour*
- *Attention to the spacing of furniture, including, tables, chairs, stools and pool tables to avoid customer crowding*
- *Raised bar-areas to permit staff monitoring of customer behaviour"*

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218140618/rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/rdsolr0103.pdf>

Restrictions on non-compliant Venues

Venues with bad records get last drink and lockouts imposed for set time period.

Increased late night transport

"encouraging the staggering of closing times of entertainment venues, ensuring sufficient fast-food outlets are open and providing adequate transport facilities out of the city-centre to reduce the potential for 'flash-points' outside venues and around fast-food outlets and taxi-ranks."

<http://www.ohrn.nhs.uk/resource/Policy/DrunksandDisorder.pdf>

High visibility foot patrol policing (high vis vests)

Police should patrol in high vis vests on foot in pairs and treat like a major event for the CBD.

Kind regards,

Matthew Mead

