

# 10 pm takeaway sales restriction

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To: Liquor Law Review <liquorlawreview@justice.nsw.gov.au>;

## Submission Regarding the 10 pm Takeaway Liquor Restriction

My name is Les Caldarevic and I am the secretary-manager of Narrandera Bowling & Recreation Club. We are a small club in a small country town. We have a very hands-on approach to staffing which also includes the use of volunteer bar staff (all with RSA cards). I work most late night function shifts, and in particular, when the club is trading until midnight.

I would like to submit my first-hand assessment of the 10 pm takeaway liquor restriction ("the restriction").

I have found that there is very little knowledge of the restriction by the general public. Consequently, we regularly have patrons asking for takeaway sales after 10 pm.

My assessment is that the restriction has ended up having one unforeseen and unpleasant outcome.

Patrons who have had a few drinks, but are far from intoxicated, often come to the bar to buy takeaways. They intend to head home whilst they are sober enough to drive or to safely walk home. Clearly, their intention is to increase their intoxication when they arrive home and to reach a level they consider as sufficiently drunk. This is a normal occurrence on most nights with patrons generally buying one to four takeaways.

Unfortunately, when patrons ask to purchase takeaways just after 10 pm our staff, of course, refuse to sell the takeaways. Subsequently, rather than head home fairly sober, the patron or group of patrons then often decide to continue drinking to get their 'fill' of alcohol at the club.

Personally, I would prefer that patrons head home with takeaways whenever they are ready to leave, and at whatever time that might be, rather than 'feeling forced' to stay at the club and to continue drinking. My staff and I do not enjoy dealing with intoxicated patrons and it is always difficult to explain to a person that we must refuse service.

In conclusion, the restriction on takeaway sales has caused sober patrons to stay at the club and to continue drinking instead of leaving with takeaways whilst they are sober and able to get themselves home safely.

I hope that this unforeseen aspect of the 10 pm takeaway restriction can be taken into consideration when reviewing how to deal with late night takeaway sales.

Sincerely,

**Les Caldarevic**  
Secretary-Manager  
Narrandera Bowling & Recreation Club