Please find my personal submission to the Liquor Reform Control Act 1998.

I work at CHASERS NIGHTCLUB in Chapel Street SOUTH YARRA. I have worked in the Security Industry for over 20 years, and I am finding on a personal level the introduction of the Networked ID Scanners is revolutionary within the Nightclub Industry for keeping the trouble makers out. I have found a reduction in violence by roughly 95% as people once banned cannot enter any other venue that uses the same Networked ID SCANNER.

In the past Network ID Scanners haven’t been pushed much due to the cost, our club and a lot of others are using a company called SCANTEK. They lease the machines to the venues for roughly $100 per week, and if an ID Scanner breaks down it is replaced immediately. Also software upgrade is available as SCANTEK update and maintain the machines on a regular basis.

An incident that showed to me the reduced violence & sexual assaults towards female patrons, is accomplished by the use of the Networked ID Scanners. Recently we had a guy who had a “History” on the SCANTEK Unit of “Attempting to Sexually Harass Female Patrons”. I notified the Local Police station, as earlier in the night this male had allegedly tried to rape a female patron by forcing her into a toilet cubicle. As the female patron was from Sydney, she did not want to press charges. But as a venue we decided to BAN the alleged male from our venue for the future safety of female patrons. Which in turn BANS him from other venues for up to 2 years, as we gave him a life time ban from our venue.

On one occasion approximately 2 years ago, we had a group of 5 Males ID Scanned and refused entry to the venue. When there ID’s were scanned the Network ID Scanner alerted Security Staff to the fact these 5 males had been BANNED for assaulting Security at another venue with “Pool Sticks”. We organised for a refund of the Pre-Purchased tickets, and the males left without any issues. As explained to the males at the time, as a venue people attend to have a great evening without any issues and enjoy the music or performance. If we let people in that are BANNED at other venues, then we risk ruining another patron’s night and or the risk of patrons or staff being assaulted by a BANNED individual.

I would like to see a requirement change, just as venues have the requirement to have CCTV on their Liquor Licence. That any venue open past 1am, needs to have a Networked ID Scanner. Also any venues, were violence is common due to police callouts for brawls etc. should also have the need of having a Networked ID Scanner as part of their licence condition.

I have included the Stonington Councils Trial Report of the SCANTEK units at 6 of the venues in the Stonington Council area of South Yarra/Prahran. I think this addition to the Liquor Licencing Conditions at Late Night Venues, will help Reduce Violence. Make a venue more Safer, and patrons having a more enjoyable evening.

The Network ID Scanners that our club use Check for FAKE ID’s, Show the ID Photo & Current Image of the patron awaiting entry to the venue for comparison. The Scanners will scan Australian Proof of Age Cards, Passports, Drivers Licences. The Networked ID Scanners also will recognise and scan International Drivers Licences, and Passports.

If a patron wants a BAN reviewed, we ask them to email the venue with their story of what happened and why the ban should be lifted. That way it is out of the hands of the Security on the Door, and the Venue/Duty Manager it is then
reviewed by the Owner or Venue Manager for a decision to keep or remove a patrons ban.
This is about making an Individual Responsible for their own behaviour, not a community.

Yours truly,

Andrew Zheng-Macdonald
Security Manager
Chasers Nightclub