Review of the Liquor Control Reform Act

December 2016
Table of contents

1. Introduction

2. Liquor Control Reform Act amendments
   - Intoxication – Offences by employees
   - Drunk – define
   - Responsible Adult – Amend definition
   - Restaurant & Café liquor licence – amend
   - Evidence of Age Documents

3. Liquor Training
   - Responsible Serving of Alcohol (RSA) training
   - Licensee training

4. Define “Manager”

5. Standard Drinks

6. Liquor Licence Types

7. 5 Star rating System

8. Strengthen patron behaviour

9. Conclusion

Appendix A  Suggested “Evidence of Age Document Seizure report”

Appendix B  Qualifications & experience
1. Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the review of the Liquor Control Reform Act (The Act). My name is Rob Steane and I reside at 1 Ovens Court, Croydon Hills. My professional and community experiences are included at appendix B.

In considering my submission, I have taken into consideration the objectives of the Act, the likelihood that my recommendations are intended to reduce red-tape, and assist in streamlining the licensing application processes.

2. Liquor Control Reform Act amendments

INTOXICATION – Offences by Employees

The responsible serving of alcohol should be seen as more of a priority. Currently the Act provides that licensees are liable where patrons in a state of intoxication are served/supplied alcohol\(^1\). There is no offence committed by staff members that actually provide alcohol to intoxicated patrons. By contrast, NSW legislation provides offences for employees to also be guilty of providing alcohol for intoxicated patrons.\(^2\)

In the course of undertaking training in the Responsible Serving of Alcohol (RSA) courses over a significant period of time, attendees have overwhelmingly expressed a view that they would be less likely to serve intoxicated patrons, if they were also personally liable for their actions, as opposed to just licensees being solely liable as is the current situation.

RECOMMENDATION: (1) Include an offence under the Liquor Control Reform Act for an employee (other than a licensee) who supplies liquor to a person in a state of intoxication. Suggested penalty –

\(^1\) Section 108 (4) (a) Liquor Control Reform Act 1989
\(^2\) NSW Liquor Act 2007 Section 73 (2)
10 penalty units (to match the penalty relating to supply minors alcohol other than permitted).

**DRUNK – Define**

The Liquor Control Reform Act defines the definition of Intoxication as …."if his or her speech, balance co-ordination, or behaviour is noticeably affected and there are reasonable grounds for believing that this is the result of the consumption of liquor."³

Given that the Act provides for an offence where licensees allow drunken persons on the premises⁴, it would seem to be highly appropriate to provide those licensees with a definition of what “drunk” actually means. In my significant experience, there is an overwhelming lack of understanding of what a “drunk” person actually is.

The Responsible Serving of Alcohol (RSA) training course does not provide ANY training for licensees and staff to understand what a drunk patron actually is.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

(2) Include a definition of “drunk” in the Liquor Control Reform Act.

(3) Include provision in the RSA training course of what a drunk person is, and link that training to the definition of “drunk” as will be defined by The Liquor Control Reform Act.

**RESPONSIBLE ADULT – Amend**

The Liquor Control Reform Act defines a “Responsible Adult”, in relation to a person who is under the age of 18 years, as a person who is of or over the age of 18 years and who is –

(a) the younger person’s parent, step-parent, guardian or grandparent; or

(b) the younger person’s spouse

---

³ Section 3AB(1) Liquor Control Reform Act

⁴ Section 108 (4) (b) Liquor Control Reform Act
(c) a person who is acting in place of a parent and who could reasonably be expected to exercise responsible supervision of the younger person.

In relation to (b) above, there is no relevance to a spouse in the 21st century. I understand that this definition goes back historically when persons around 18 – 20 did in fact marry persons under 18. There is absolutely no relevance to today’s community standards. In over 15 years of delivering liquor licensing training in Victoria, I have never had a student who knew a person who would be defined as a spouse. I find that by removing one confusing aspect of a definition, that has no bearing whatsoever, employees will have one less aspect to remember when determining whether a person is in fact a Responsible Adult.

RECOMMENDATION: (4) Remove (b) “the younger person’s spouse” as defined in the definition of Responsible Adult under Section 3 (1) of the Liquor Control Reform Act.

RESTAURANT & CAFÉ LIQUOR LICENCE – Amend
The Liquor Control Reform Act at Section 9A(1) defines a “Restaurant & Café” licence. It provides for certain requirements and conditions and allows for “on-premises” consumption of alcohol. This condition prohibits patrons from taking alcohol away from the premises. A consequence of this condition is that patrons who may have purchased a bottle of wine is then not subsequently permitted to remove the unfinished contents. The current situation requires licensees to apply for a second “Annual Renewable Limited Licence” to allow patrons who have dined at the premises to purchase wine from the wine list for off-premises consumption. This is an additional financial burden for small restaurants, and confuses both licensees and patrons. Additionally, this is an added unnecessary administrative burden on the Victorian Commission for Gambling & Liquor Regulation (The Commission). Most licensees in my experience do not have that second licence. This situation does not present itself in relation to cocktails, spirits, or beers, which are typically purchased by the glass and are consumed then and there. There is in my experience, no want to remove unfinished beers or spirits in these circumstances.
My research indicates that where licensees of restaurant & café licences, attempt to prevent a patron from leaving with their wine, conflict can occur. Additionally, there is a sense from some that if they can’t leave with the remainder of their wine, they will consume it, in some cases not responsibly.

My view and indeed the objects of the Liquor Control Reform Act are that the primary focus of all liquor laws should be the responsible consumption of alcohol, and by default – the reduction of harm. By allowing patrons who have purchased a bottle of wine in a restaurant (overwhelmingly as part of a meal) then it is more responsible to allow those patrons the ability to take the unfinished contents home, rather than “force” them to consume it if they did not want to.

RECOMMENDATIONS:  
(5) Amend Section 9A (1)(a) of the Liquor Control Reform Act by adding a section (aa) …..”to supply patrons who have dined at the licensed premises, wine from the wine list for consumption both on and off the premises.”
(6) Include in the amendment - wine from the wine list does not include cocktails, spirits, or beer.

EVIDENCE OF AGE DOCUMENTS
Attendance at licensed premises by minors has been occurring for several decades. In my police career I became aware of coordinated forged evidence of age documents in 1991, when I first Policed King Street’s night club precinct. This was before the words “evidence of age documents” were even defined. Alcohol misuse and attendance at licensed premises by minors continues to be a significant problem. For many years minors have been resourceful in the production of forged evidence of age documents, most prevalently driver’s licences. The Act at Section 127 allows for the seizure of evidence of age documents (other than a driver’s licence). Overwhelmingly the one evidence of age document that is used by under-aged persons attempting to gain entry into a licensed is still a driver’s licence. I am advised through my industry sources that since the introduction of the “new” style of driver’s licence there has been a significant
reduction of forged driver’s licences being produced. Notwithstanding that, there continues to be a significant problem with “borrowed” driver’s licences being used by minors attempting entry into licensed premises, and for the purchase of alcohol from packaged outlets.

By allowing the confiscation of a driver’s licence with subsequent follow up by the Victoria Police, there will in my view be a further decrease in illegal use of drivers’ licences.

Any confiscated evidence of age documents would need to have additional information provided to the Police for there to be any worthwhile follow-up. For this reason I have attached a suggested format for an “Evidence of age document seizure report” at appendix A.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

(7) Amend Section 127(1) of the Liquor Control Reform Act by removing the words … “(except a driver licence)”

(8) Require a person seizing an evidence of age document to within 72 hours of such seizure to forward to the nearest Police Station, or provide to a member of the Police Force stationed at that nearest Police Station the seized document, together with details of the seizure. The details to include the name and address of the licensed venue from where the document was seized, the name of the person who seized it, the date and time of seizure, whether the person who produced was the person identified in the document and any other relevant information.

(9) Require a member of the Police Force receiving the document(s) to sign the venue’s crowd control (or other appropriate) register, and require that the Police make appropriate inquiries to determine whether the document
was illegally used or to return it to the person to whom it was issued, once the inquiries have been completed.

3. Liquor Training (RSA & Licensee)

Responsible Serving of Alcohol (RSA) training
70% of all alcohol sold in Australia is sold as packaged liquor. Increasingly in Victoria (and elsewhere) there is a growing tendency for small business operators to come from backgrounds where English is a second language (L.O.T.E.). Current requirements are that licensees and staff of packaged liquor licences are required to undertake RSA training by attending (initial) face-to-face training, inevitably in English. I believe that my company is the only accredited provider that undertakes RSA & Licensees training in Mandarin – but this is with resources that are in English. I am not aware of any other licensee or staff training in other languages. Given that barrier, it is my view that people who have a L.O.T.E. don’t get to fully understand their legislative requirements to the same extent as English speaking individuals. In order to combat that, I would suggest that RSA training materials should be made available in multiple languages. Current requirements are that staff involved in the supply of alcohol, in premises that operate with General, On-Premises, Packaged liquor licences, or licences where that requirement is actually included, must undertake that training 3 yearly. There is no requirement at all for any other staff in other premises subject to other liquor licences to undertake ANY training.

Licensee Training
In respect to Licensee training, all new entrants must undertake initial training. This training is the same for each licence type. The current requirement is that provided an applicant has done the training, then the Commission has determined that the applicant has sufficient knowledge to operate a licensed premises.

This licensee training commenced in 2004, when I wrote with William Angliss Institute, Licensees First Step. That course has seen significant changes since that original version – in 2004 there was no Commission, no Compliance Inspectors, no requirement to
produce documents, and there were different licence types (there was no Restaurant & Café licence). HOWEVER, a person that did that course back then could apply for a liquor licence today, using that 2004 course certificate as showing that they have sufficient CURRENT knowledge to be a licensee. I submit that is not the case. Training should be recent and relevant.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

(10) Provide RSA training materials in multiple languages.

(11) Require RSA training to be undertaken, initially by completing an approved course and then annually as an on-line refresher, (which is already available) by all staff who supply alcohol – regardless of licence type.

(12) Provide for the introduction of an on-line Licensees training course – such course to be required by liquor licence applicants that have previously undertaken new entrant training more than three years ago OR where a current licensee has committed a Compliance History Trigger Offence OR any offence under Section 108 of The Act. (It should be noted that William Angliss Institute and my company Liquor Consultancy Services have jointly developed Licensees Next Step an on-line licensee refresher course for licensees, Nominees, and Managers). This course, which has been seen by senior staff from the Commission, is ready for introduction immediately and is already available for those desirous of additional licensee training regardless of whether this becomes compulsory or not. My submission is it should be compulsory so that applicants’ knowledge is refreshed every time they apply for a new liquor licence and where such applicants haven’t undertaken any training in the previous 3 years.
4. Define “Manager”

The Act does not define or provide responsibilities for Managers (other than Nominees). This potentially means that those persons given responsibility to “manage” licensed premises, have no fear of prosecution for the inappropriate operating of a licensed premises.

The NSW Liquor Act\(^5\) requires Licensees to appoint Managers – to take responsibility for the Management of those licensed premises.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

(13) Define Manager under the Act.

(14) Require Licensees to appoint Managers for premises that operate under General, and on-premises licences.

(15) Provide offences by managers who commit similar offences as defined under Section 108 of the Act.

(16) Require Managers to undertake New Entrant Training before being allowed to undertake that role, and require them to undertake the on-line refresher training every 3 years.

5. Standard Drinks

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) define standard drinks, as those of which contain approximately 10 grams of pure alcohol. The licensed hospitality industry does not so define their “standard” drinks, however it aligns with the NHMRC in respect to beer and spirit sales. Typically though, glassed wine sales are 150ml (1.5 – 1.8 standard drinks) with some cocktails regularly containing up to 90mls (3 standard drinks) or even more. There is no requirement (typically) where licensees are required to maintain standard sized drinks.

\(^5\) NSW Liquor Act Section 66(1)
Some cocktails currently have in excess of 4 standard drinks. It is my view that those drinks are not in the public interest, and in no way aligns with the harm minimisation principles of the Act. Those cocktails can be equally prepared using ½ measures, providing similar tastes but without the significant quantities of alcohol.

The NHMRC guidelines state that a person should not consume any more than 2 standard drinks per day, and that it is considered high risk to have any more than 4 standard drinks on a single occasion. The following recommendations are in accord with those NHMRC guidelines.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(17) Prohibit licensees from supplying any more than 2 standard drinks in any glassed beverage.

(18) Require licensees that provide written descriptions of beverages to include the number of standard drinks as defined by the NHMRC in any beverage list, or other advertisement etc.

6. Liquor Licence Types

In the previous 10 years, there has been a significant increase in the number of licensees that have operated on-line businesses. The Act was never written to cover such supply, and licensees have had to operate under Annual Renewable Limited Licences in order to operate purely on-line sales. (A number of other operators can offer on-line sales through their existing general or packaged licensed premises). However, Section 26(1) of the Act restricts the granting of Limited Licences where the supply of alcohol is limited in its scale and scope – thereby making it impossible for a licensee to offer on-line sales where that supply is not in fact limited.

---

6 Glassed beverage means – a beverage that is prepared and served by the glass (including plastic)
RECOMMENDATIONS: (19) Introduce an “on-line licence”, which should be worded along these lines – 
“An on-line licence authorises the licensee to
(a) supply liquor which has been ordered by mail, telephone, facsimile, email, or other internet based ordering system; for consumption off the premises
(b) alcohol ordered under an on-line licence must not be delivered on the same day it was ordered
(c) any alcohol delivered under an on-line licence must be delivered to a person over 18 years of age and must not be left at premises that are unattended
(d) An on-line licence prohibits any face-to-face sales or sampling
(e) any alcohol delivered under an on-line licence must only be so delivered on –
   a. Sundays between 10AM & 11PM
   b. ANZAC Day between 12 noon & 11PM
   c. On any other day (other than Christmas Day & Good Friday) between 9AM & 11PM – with no delivery permitted on Christmas Day or Good Friday

7. 5 Star Rating System

The current system of “compliance history risk fees” relates to 4 offences against the Act, namely, supply an intoxicated patron, allow a drunk person to remain on licensed premises, allow a minor on licensed premises (other than as permitted), and to supply liquor to a minor (other than as permitted). No other offence imposes a “compliance history risk fee”.
Licensees that trade outside the conditions set out in their licence (Section 108 offences) should be “breached” against the proposed rating and demerit system.

Additionally, the suspension periods should in my submission be amended. A licensee that has it licence suspended for 24 hours is in some instances hardly a deterrent.

Additionally, the public does not know a licence star rating, as those ratings are only on display on the Commission’s web site. A rating should be readily available and viewable so that the public can know how premises they are considering attending, operate.

RECOMMENDATION:

(20) Increase the extent of breaches of the Liquor Control Reform Act (and other allied legislation) in the determination of the proposed star rating/demerit point system, considering specifically offences against Section 108 of the Liquor Control Reform Act.

(21) Require licensees to publicly display their star rating system externally of their premises in a conspicuous place and in a manner that invites public attention – the design of which to be mandated by the Commission.

(22) Increase the penalty of the demerit point system

- 5 demerit points in 3 years – 7 day suspension
- 10 demerit points in 3 years – 28 day suspension
- 15 demerit points in 3 years – 3 month suspension

8. Strengthen patron behaviour around licensed premises

The Act makes it encompassing on a licensee to ensure the operations of their businesses do not cause undue detriment to the amenity of the neighbourhood. In order to assist licensees in this regards, patrons should be held in part responsible for their behaviour when around licensed premises.
In my capacity as a Municipal Councillor for the City of Maroondah, I introduced a local law, which requires “...persons in the course of arriving at or departing from licensed premises not to behave in a manner that is or is likely to be detrimental to the amenity of the neighbourhood”.\textsuperscript{7}

The purpose of this local law is to prevent those minor matters that occur around licensed premises, from escalating into more serious matters, as it encourages patrons to “move on”. It will be remembered that in New York (USA) in the 1990’s Police initiated a “zero tolerance” approach to petty crime. This resulted in a SIGNIFICANT reduction in the city’s murder rate. This local law is likewise intended to reduce crime in much the same manner. It requires individuals to be responsible for their own actions and helps licensees by discouraging patrons from disturbing the venue’s neighbours.

Maroondah’s local laws allow for enforcement by a Member of the Victoria Police, by way of either a penalty notice (3 penalty units) or prosecution (maximum of 20 penalty units).

**RECOMMENDATION:** (23) Replicate Maroondah’s Local Law into the Act.

9. Conclusion

I do not consider my submissions here to be the *magic bullet* to stop alcohol abuse, but I consider that all of the recommendations will help *chip away* at the problem. In Australia, excessive alcohol consumption in my view is a cultural thing, where others encourage drinkers to scull drinks or binge, or “friends” will purchase things like yard-glasses for birthday presents and encourage others to consume the contents irresponsibly.

We ultimately need to discourage that mindset. These recommended changes to the Act will hopefully assist that.

Rob Steane

\footnote{Maroondah City Council Local Law No. 9, Section 19.3}
Appendix A

Suggested format for confiscated evidence of age documents
Evidence of Age Document seizure report

Name of Venue  ____________________________________________

Date of confiscation  ____/____/___  Time of Confiscation ________

Name of person responsible for confiscation of the Document

The reason the Evidence of Age Document was seized

Forged / Altered
Not the person in the photograph
Other (requires additional information)

Additional information (name of person from whom the document was seized, physical description, vehicle registration associated with the document, or any other relevant information)

__________________________________________________

Signature of person confiscating evidence of age: __________________________

Date evidence of age document forwarded to police  ____/____/____

Name of M.O.P.F. document handed to  ______________________________

Station: ____________________________________________

Attach the seized Evidence of Age Document to this sheet. A copy of this document and the evidence of age document MUST then be forwarded to the nearest Police Station, or handed to a member of the Police Force from that nearest station, within 72 hours of the confiscation.

Distribution:  Original & Evidence of age document – Police,  Copy : retained at venue
Appendix B

Statement of Qualifications and Expertise
STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERTISE

NAME AND ADDRESS

Robert Lindsay Steane
1 Ovens Court
Croydon Hills. Victoria 3136

QUALIFICATIONS

Certificate IV Training & Assessment 2014
Certificate II Security (Guarding) 2004

CURRENT LICENCES

Licensed Security Advisor

AWARDS

1997    Awarded National Medal
1998    Awarded Good Service Medal

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Current Position  Managing Director, Liquor Consultancy Services

Previous Employment  Between 1980 and 1997, I was a member of the Victoria Police Force, obtaining the rank of Sergeant. I was upgraded to the rank of Acting Senior Sergeant between 1993 and 1995 and again between 1996 and 1997. During my entire Police career, I was required to determine peoples’ sobriety and form opinions on their apparent age.

In 1990 I was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and almost immediately became responsible for the policing of the King Street nightclub entertainment precinct. This responsibility included establishing a rapport with licensees and other stakeholders, and I became responsible for the establishment of initiatives in order to reduce the incidents of alcohol related violence and amenity disruption in this precinct.
In 1993, representing the Victoria Police, I travelled interstate and lectured NSW Police and other stakeholders on the initiatives undertaken in the King Street nightclub precinct and educated them how to reduce alcohol related harm within their areas of command.

During the period of 1990 to 1995, as part of network of stakeholders, I developed and implemented strategies to reduce the incidence of alcohol related violence around the King Street (Melbourne) Night Club precinct. These initiatives included –

- Procedures developed to assist licensees and their staff identify false identification documents. This initiative became the pre-cursor to the introduction of evidence of age documents currently in use today.
- The establishment of safe taxi ranks, developed to assist patrons find taxis in an orderly and safe environment, manned by Crowd Controllers ensuring the public's safety.
- Encouragement for licensees to utilise metal detectors and “shatter” glasses within their premises.
- The reduction of alcohol related harm by urban design

In 1995, again representing the Victoria Police I travelled interstate to Sydney and Queensland's Gold Coast to determine how other areas containing licensed nightclub entertainment precincts had patrons leave those areas at the conclusion of the entertainment. Those initiatives were identified and adapted to Melbourne conditions. This saw the establishment of the Nightrider Bus services and the introduction of “Safe Taxi Ranks” in the King Street precinct and other areas.

Later in 1995, I became the Sergeant in charge of a liquor licensing enforcement unit for the city and inner suburban areas. This duty required me to manage staff and enforce the provisions of the (then) Liquor Control and Private Agents Acts, and allied legislation.

As the Manager of this unit I allocated investigations, undertook inquiries into the operations of licensed premises, and managed those investigations allocated to the police members of the unit.

These investigations required me to extensively observe the operations of licensed premises, their patrons and staff and determine the compliance or otherwise of those premises. Additionally, the determination of the premises in relation to amenity disturbance, as well as identify the management practices within those licensed premises.

The enforcement of compliance of licensed premises required me to provide evidence to Magistrates’ Courts and the then Liquor Licensing Commission on numerous occasions.
As Manager of this unit, I regularly provided advice and guidance to Licensing Inspectors, many of whom had little or no knowledge of liquor licensing matters.

During this period I was selected as part of a team, tasked to establish the Penalty Notice system utilised today to enforce most aspects of the Liquor Control Reform Act.

In 1996, I took a temporary position at the Victoria Police Drug & Alcohol Policy Co-ordination Unit. Whilst up-graded to that position, I researched alcohol issues and assisted in the development of alcohol related policy for the Victoria Police.

In 1997 I became an instructor of law to Police Recruits, selected to teach recruits aspects of (amongst other laws) Liquor Licensing legislation.

During my Police career, I determined hundreds of persons’ sobriety, and established numerous practices and procedures in order to reduce the incidence of alcohol related harm and amenity disturbance reduction strategies in and around licensed premises. I have inspected hundreds of licensed premises and determined their compliance of the Liquor Control and associated Acts. As part of that role, I assisted Licensees to develop strategies to ensure that the operation of their premises did not impact on the amenity of their neighbourhoods.

In 1997 I resigned from the Victoria Police Force after being approached by Crown Casino where I worked for a year before ultimately establishing Liquor Consultancy Services.

**Current role** Since then, I have assisted licensees in establishing procedures and practices to assist them to comply with their Liquor Licence obligations. I have also undertaken numerous audits, which indicate to licensees and freehold building owners, whether staffing practices comply with the legislative requirements of the Liquor Licences.

I have established initiatives, which saw a marked reduction of underage drinkers attending licensed premises and the reduction of alcohol related violence in and around licensed premises. I have given evidence at the Magistrates’ and County Courts, and on numerous occasions at the former Liquor Licensing Commission.

Since establishing Liquor Consultancy Services, I have also given evidence on numerous occasions at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal as well as the County Court, where I am considered an “expert in liquor licensing matters”.

My experience extends to (previously) being a licensed Crowd Controller and I have prepared numerous Standard Operating Procedures, Patron Management, Venue Management and Security Management Plans to assist licensees to operate their businesses in a safe and compliant manner.

In 2003 I assisted in the development of “Licensees’ First Step” the accredited compulsory course for new licensees and nominees into the Victorian Licensed Hospitality Industry, where I am one of only a few accredited trainers. This is one of the approved courses for new entrants to undertake prior to the granting of liquor licences by the Commission. This course was based on a training course I had previously written and delivered before becoming mandatory to new entrant licensees. I train nearly 1,000 new entrants and facilitate approximately 80 such training sessions each year on how to operate their licensed premises effectively and within the requirements of the Liquor Control Reform Act. This represents approximately 40% of all Liquor Licensee training in Victoria. As part of this training, I continue to provide the majority advice in relation to the updating of the information to ensure currency and on-going relevance to the Licensed Hospitality Industry.

Over the past 2 years I have written and continue to assist William Angliss Institute in the development of Licensees Next Step, the on-line licensee refresher course referred to in this submission.

Given my reputation relative to liquor licensing in Local Government circles, I have also given professional advice to Councils, and Local Government industry bodies.

Since the introduction of the requirement for Cumulative Impact Statements, I conduct regular audits in respect to the cumulative impact of licensed premises in specific areas.

_Liquor Consultancy Services_ in its own right is a Registered Training Organisation and delivers (amongst other courses) Licensees’ First Step and R.S.A. training throughout Victoria.

**COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE**

In 2007, I was elected as a parent representative at the Croydon Hills Primary School, School Council. Once my children left that school in 2009 I retained my participation in that School Council as a Community member. In 2010, I became a parent representative on the Croydon Secondary College (now known as Melba College) School Council.

In 2008 I was elected to the City of Maroondah as an elected Municipal Councillor. In that role I instigated the establishment of the Maroondah Community Safety Committee, which I chair. I have also instigated Maroondah Council’s membership of the National Local Government Drug & Alcohol Advisory Council (NLGDAAC), which I represent as the Committee’s Deputy Chair. As a further
part of my role on Council, I have instigated the establishment of a local law relating to the behaviour of patrons (as discussed at paragraph 8) around licensed premises.

Additionally, as part of my role on Council, I give consideration to planning applications, some of which relate to licensed premises. I am often asked for my professional advice by Council in relation to anything liquor licensing.

I was the Mayor in 2011 – 2012 and was re-elected to Council in 2012 & 2016.

**CONCLUSION**

I am in a unique position to make comment on liquor licensing matters, given I grew up in the hospitality industry, policed it, worked in it, consult to it, train in it, and combine my Local Government experience with it. Few would have that breadth of experience over more than 25 years.