

Review of the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998

Terms of Reference

Background

The liquor and licensed hospitality industry makes a significant contribution to Victoria's cultural life and economy.

Pubs, clubs, bars and licensed restaurants and cafés all contribute to our diverse and vibrant culture. Our unique small bars and our abundance of top quality restaurants and cafes, together with our great wineries and boutique breweries, are the envy of other states.

Melbourne is increasingly becoming a 24-hour city, with a growing night-time economy supported by late night and 24-hour public transport.

The liquor and licensed hospitality industry employs over 85,000 people and contributes to making Victoria a destination of choice for interstate and overseas visitors.

Given the important role licensed premises play in our cultural and economic life, it is vital that the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998* (Act), which governs the supply and consumption of liquor in Victoria, keep pace with industry trends and modern regulatory practice. The Act must minimise regulatory burden and not unnecessarily impede responsible growth and innovation.

While acknowledging the importance of the liquor and licensed hospitality industries, the government is aware of the harm arising from the misuse and abuse of alcohol.

In March 2016 the Royal Commission into Family Violence recommended that the Victorian Government ensure that the terms of reference for this review consider family violence and alcohol-related harms. The government has committed to implement all of the Royal Commission's recommendations.

Focus of the review

The Victorian Government will undertake a review of the Act with the aim of identifying ways to reduce red tape and regulatory burden. The review will ensure that Victoria has the right laws to support our liquor and hospitality industries, including our attractive café, restaurant, pub, club, bar and night-life culture.

The review will also assess the effectiveness of the Act's harm minimisation measures, including the degree to which they can play a part in minimising the incidence of family violence, as recommended by the Royal Commission into Family Violence. The review will not, however, consider or recommend introducing lock-outs for late-trading licensed premises.

Consultations

The review will consult with industry and consumer stakeholder groups, and people who have expertise in the inter-relationship between family violence and alcohol use.