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Law Justice and Safety Committee
Parliament House Brisbane Q 4001

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28 SEP 2009
Law Justice and Safety
Committee

Please find attached **my story** of why Toowoomba **should not** have extended hotel trading hours due to alcohol related violence in our community

Name: DAVID WICKS

Signature: 

Address:

Date: 23 / 9 / 2009 12

23rd September 2009

RE: Liquor Licensing Trading Hours Extension

To whom it may concern,

I would like to make the following comments with regards to the proposed extension of trading hours for licensed premises in Toowoomba. I would like to base these comments on my being an Ex QLD Police Officer, a father of 2 teenage Daughters and a law abiding member of the general public.

1. Australia's Drinking Culture.

The Aussie drinking culture needs to be set back a peg or two for the good of all. During my 6 years as a Police Officer I saw first hand the results of the excessive use of alcohol. The fights, the assaults, the Police and Court time wasted, the lives down the gutter and the sheer futility of it all. On more than one occasion it was myself or my fellow colleagues that were being assaulted just for attempting to do our jobs and keep the peace and uphold the law. Funnily enough I never saw the CEO for Woolworths or XXXX out and about giving us a hand at 2am outside the Colmslie Hotel in Brisbane or the Fitzroy Hotel in Nanango.

I can also understand that just closing a pub will not always stop people drinking. It will however reduce the amount of time that they can drink on a licensed premises. This will have the effect of reducing the level of inebriation of patrons when they exit the premises. If after they leave they continue to drink at a private residence at least it has the benefits of keeping groups to smaller numbers and reduces the overall access to alcohol.

2. Business Responsibility.

This general trend by big business to attempt to extend their trading hours is not a decision that reflects well on our Australian Culture as a whole. It clearly shows that making money continually wins over being responsible. For example if I hurt as many people as alcohol does in my line of work as an electrician I would have my licence removed, be fined and would probably end up in jail. This however does not appear to be the case with alcohol sales. The only thing that the big companies concern themselves with is the bottom line and profit back to shareholders.

In finalisation I would like to confirm that I am avidly against further extensions of trading hours and am in favour of shortening the trading hours back to Midnight.



David Wicks.