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**From:** Chris Meibusch  
**Sent:** Sunday, 27 September 2009 3:23 PM  
**To:** Law, Justice and Safety Committee  
**Subject:** SUBMISSION TO ALCOHOL RELATED VIOLENCE INQUIRY  
**Attachments:** 090927 SQL initial submission to inquiry.PDF

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**Our Ref: CJM:81345**

27 September 2009

**VIA EMAIL:** [ljsc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:ljsc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

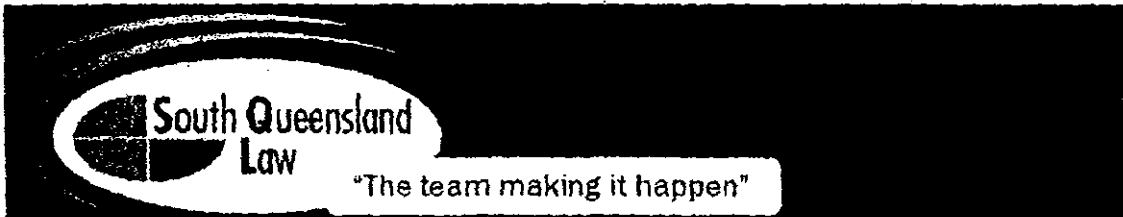
Dear Research Director

**SUBMISSION TO ALCOHOL RELATED VIOLENCE INQUIRY**

Please find **attached** our preliminary submission.

Please acknowledge receipt.

Regards  
Chris Meibusch BA LLB  
Partner



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27 September 2009

**Our Ref: CJM:81345**

The Research Director  
Law, Justice and Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Colleagues

#### **SUBMISSION – ALCOHOL RELATED VILENCE INQUIRY**

We make the following initial submission to your inquiry.

We are concerned to ensure your inquiry gets a full understanding of the particular issues faced by regional centres with the late trading of licenced premises.

#### **ISSUE REQUIRING INVESTIGATION**

At this preliminary stage, we wish t raise one issue - the lack of suitable public transport (or a culture of acceptance of using public transport) other than taxis in the early hours in regional centres. This leads to the great majority of patrons, in Toowoomba we estimate 90%, choosing to walk home through the suburbs from the sole nite club open to 5am.

It is this unique feature that we consider contributes significantly to the violence (fighting leading to assaults, damage to public and private property) and anti- social behaviour (noise, urination and vomiting on public and private property) in Toowoomba suburbs as these intoxicated patrons return home in the early hours of Saturday and Sunday.

#### **BACKGROUND**

In Toowoomba, there is only one night club licenced to 5am on Friday and Saturday nights – Tombas Niteclub, located in Russell Street, on the northern edge of the Toowoomba CBD. Patrons at other Toowoomba licenced premises wanting to stay out until 5am have to leave the other 3 major city hotels (the Shamrock, Tattersalls and Cube Hotels – all licensed only until 3am) between 2am and 2.30am to give themselves enough time to walk to Tombas and line up so as to gain entry prior to the 3am lockout.

After 10pm in Toowoomba, there is no available public transport – other than taxis to take patrons home from entertainment venues.

From our limited investigations, in the warmer months (Oct – Mar) only 1 in 10 patrons pay for a taxi to take themselves home from late night licenced premises in Toowoomba.

Night club venues in Toowoomba suffer from a significant drop in trade in colder months (Apr – Sept). We understand a significantly higher percentage of patrons use taxis in these cooler months although the overall numbers are lower.

We have also had it suggested to us that regional wages of patrons are lower in regional areas leading to patrons being unable to afford taxis home. There may also be a culture of walking home through regional centres in contrast to city patrons.

Anecdotally, our limited investigations also suggest that incidents of street violence and anti social behaviour are significantly less in these cooler months – in part possibly referable to patrons using taxis to get straight home on leaving the nite clubs.

Our experience is in Toowoomba but we understand the factors we have identified are replicated in other regional centres.

These issues all require proper investigation before being validated.

#### **INITIAL SUBMISSION TO COMMITTEE**

We consider it important for your committee to initiate some significant research in regional centres, in the coming warmer months, to identify this and other particularly 'regional' issues relevant to your inquiry.

We are continuing our own research and intend to make a further submission to your committee towards the end of October 2009.

Yours faithfully  
SOUTH QUEENSLAND LAW

*Chris Meibusch*

Chris Meibusch BA LLB  
Partner