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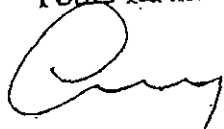
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Ann St. Holdings Pty Ltd  
Trading as The Beat Nightclub  
36 Little Edward Street,  
Spring Hill Qld. 4000

LAW JUSTICE SAFETY COMMITTEE  
Fax 07 340667070

Please find herewith our submission in respect of the liquor trade in  
Queensland.

Yours faithfully



R. Hannay Director.

Copies of submission to:  
The Premier, Hon Anna Bligh, M.P.  
P.J. Lawlor, M.P. Minister for Tourism and Fair Trading  
Grace Grace M. P. Member for Brisbane Central  
Officer in Charge, Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing

## SUBMISSION from ANN ST HOLDINGS trading as THE BEAT NIGHTCLUB and THE BEAT MEGACLUB.

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The opinions in this submission are based on our hospitality experience arising from over twenty years continuous operation of the above mentioned Club.

We intend to review the various problems raised in the press and elsewhere, and provide our comments.

### "GLASSING "

In our twenty years experience at the BEAT, there has never been an incident of "glassing" involving a broken glass. The type of glass that has always been used at our club is such that the glass disintegrates if broken. We understand that this particular type of glass, or plastic, complies with the current Liquor Commission requirements. Should your records by chance indicate any "glassing" incidents at The Beat, it would be greatly appreciated if you would grant us an interview to discuss. Whilst the press report increasing incidents of "glassing", we do not believe the solution is to change from glass to plastic in all licensed premises. Any such change should be based on the record of individual operations. In other cases known to us, "glassing" has only occurred in venues with inadequate or lax security and where excess drinking is allowed. In our opinion, only legislation for a mandatory gaol sentence will eliminate "glassing".

### FRONT DOOR SECURITY.

We know we are the only club in Brisbane to consistently use metal detector wands and have done so for almost fifteen years. Over this period we have confiscated around one hundred knives. We believe the wands should be mandatory for all clubs.

### BINGE DRINKING.

It is our opinion that binge drinking inside clubs is considerably less than six years ago, and has been greatly reduced by the Licensing Commission stopping sale of super cheap drinks and people buying large quantities of cheap drinks at special times.

### STREET DRINKING

We have witnessed people alighting from taxis, in particular maxitaxis, where up to twelve people are all carrying open drinks. Door security have to deal with these people who believe they can take the drinks inside, and on refusal stand around the footpath drinking. We then have to

dispose of the empty bottles and there have been occasions when in one night, we have filled a large rubbish bin with bottles taken from people at the front door.

Why is it that people can leave the premises of a GENERAL LICENCE holder with open drinks? When these people arrive at the front door, the same situation exists as described above.

#### PEOPLE DRINKING IN MALLS

It is our belief that all the open air drinking in any mall to 5 am is ridiculous and this does cause a lot of trouble involving people who have been prevented from entering nightclubs. Such people all end up in the mall and this is where violence occurs. We believe all consumption of liquor should be behind doors after one am. In many cases, operators whose premises open onto the Valley Mall are also closing off the public footpath on most nights. It is common knowledge that the footpath between the wall of the licensed premises and the outdoor service area is a footpath for the general public to use and people should not be expected to walk in the rain or be bumped by drinkers because operators have closed off the footpath. These footpaths are closed every weekend in the Valley Mall. We have been told by Licensing Inspectors that the said footpaths are not licensed premises.

Why is it that nothing is ever done about it?

#### INDIGENOUS PEOPLE.

With regard to these people who are in the Valley day and night, drinking, spitting, urinating in the street, yelling out, accosting people for money and cigarettes and becoming nasty when refused, we believe such behaviour should not be tolerated. People and families who come to the Valley to attend restaurants and clubs should not be abused by anyone.

#### NIGHT CLUB LICENCES AND SMOKING

Eighty percent of arguments inside our club stem from the fact that people who have arrived from a General Licence premises where they can drink and smoke in the same area, cannot understand why the same situation does not apply in our club. In our premises, we have three smoking areas. The ridiculous situation exists where we have to have security watching each of the three areas to enforce a non drinking rule in the smoking area.

We find this to be the biggest security drama inside our club.

Why should there be two different rules for the same type of operation?

In particular, interstate and international tourists and many locals believe our security are "having a go at them". We do have lots of large signs

indicating the rules. This problem has definitely caused many arguments leading to fights. We say again this situation is absolutely ridiculous.

### 3 AM LOCKOUT.

Since the introduction of 3 am lockout, violence has escalated. People have been injured trying to climb walls and fences, endeavouring to gain entry. More people have been hurt in trying to do the above or causing fights at the front door after 3 am, than anything else, including "glassing". On more than a dozen occasions, our front doors have been kicked in after 3 am by people who have been refused entry. At least two security officers have finished up in hospital though this ridiculous rule.

### LATE LICENCE 5 AM TO 7 AM.

We believe that late licences as above should be granted on two occasions a year, namely VALLEY FIESTA and NEW YEARS EVE in order that the public may enjoy a proper celebratory period. +

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'C' followed by a horizontal line that ends in a small upward hook.