

[REDACTED]

From: Sarosh Mehta [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 23 October 2009 5:06 PM
To: Law, Justice and Safety Committee
Subject: Law, Justice and Safety Committee's Inquiry into Alcohol-related violence in QLD
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

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Dear Barbara Stone,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments in relation to your Committee's inquiry into alcohol-related violence in Queensland.

In our opinion there is no "quick fix", instead we believe what's needed is a long-term approach to changing the culture especially amongst the young who frequent licensed premises. In this regard, we compliment State Government in several of its Safety Campaigns undertaken in past years via the media.

We believe first and foremost a review of penalties currently in place on those misbehaving in and around licensed premises needs immediate attention with a move to stiffen said penalties including jail time. The current "soft slap-on-the-wrist" approach is simply not working.

The current double standard with regards to alcohol promotions at licensed premises vs. the free reign at "off premise" liquor outlets needs review. As it stands now, 80% of alcohol consumed is from such off-premise liquor outlets given their ability to promote huge discounts via full page ads in the media and signage throughout their premises.

We recommend a total moratorium on any new Liquor Licences regardless of venue size or type of license with the exception of designated "Entertainment Precincts" e.g. Fortitude Valley and Caxton St. in Brisbane.

The 3am lockout needs serious review once and for all.

As responsible licensees committed to harm minimization we are more than happy to work with State Government toward a safer environment in and around our licensed premises. In this regard, we are prepared to meet with Government to discuss further any of our above recommendations.

Kind regards,

Sarosh Mehta
President
Caxton St Precinct Liquor Accord

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[REDACTED]

From: Sarosh Mehta [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 24 October 2009 3:55 PM
To: Law, Justice and Safety Committee
Subject: Law, Justice and Safety Committee's inquiry into Alcohol-Related Violence in Qld.

Dear Ms. Stone

Further to our email submission of 23rd Oct. we wish to add the following:-

Given that a large percentage of alcohol-related violence occurs OUT in the public domain where our Security Guards have little or no authority, and as such cant affect too much control (vs. the Police), the LEAPS unit should be disbanded.

Reasons being :-

- 1). For skilled Police Officers to be engaged in often petty compliance duties e.g. ensuring Incident Registers, CCTV etc. are in order at licensed premises is a total waste of their training as Law Enforcement Officers and as such tax payers monies.
- 2) The big cry both from the Police and the Community is "lack of Police presence IN THE STREETS. Thus those assigned to the LEAPS unit could be performing actual Police functions, preferably on a regular basis in Entertainment Precincts post Midnight till 6am. For the record I personally have requested such Police presence for our Caxton St. precinct AND offered to pay for same for the past several years to no avail.
- 3) Our Industry does NOT need two sets of Compliance "masters" i.e. OLGR and LEAPS often w/ conflicting instructions, especially from the LEAPS squad, many of whom are on rotational duties, as such lack the in depth knowledge of the Liquor Act.

Trust the above comments will be taken in the constructive nature intended.

Thankyou again for the opportunity to express our opinions to your Committee. We look forward to its outcome with interest.

Kind Regards

Sarosh Mehta
President
Caxton St. Precinct Liquor Accord

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