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**Christine Smith MP**  
*Member for Burleigh*

**RECEIVED**  
29 OCT 2009  
Law, Justice and Safety  
Committee

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

22 October 2009

Dear Sir

**Inquiry into Alcohol Related Violence**

Extended trading hours in designated areas, identified as suitable for nightclubs and late night trading, have become an acceptable part of our culture. On the Gold Coast, Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach fit this category.

However, taverns and/or hotels in residential areas, that become 'defacto nightclubs' on weekends are a huge issue.

Most people I speak with are concerned at the escalating levels of violence associated with these venues. The incidents of 'glassing' and other unacceptable behaviour appear to have become a nightly occurrence. By far the majority of people believe violence is directly related to extended trading hours that allow patrons to consume alcohol until 2.00am or later.

The majority of those with whom I speak believe the only way to curb this violence is to close licensed venues much earlier. Most would support a midnight closing time with a 2.00am extension for approved nightclubs.

I offer this short submission on behalf of the constituents of Burleigh.

Yours sincerely

*Christine Smith*

**CHRISTINE SMITH MP**  
Member for Burleigh

**Your Voice in Government**

*Working for Burleigh Heads, Burleigh Waters, Miami  
and part of Palm Beach, Tallebudgera and Varsity Lakes*