

Submission regarding extension of trading hours for licenced premises in Queensland.

To the members of the Liquor Reform Team.

I wish to point out that REFORM means to make better by stopping abuses; to cause a person to behave better; give up bad ways – it is a correction of faults or evils; an improvement in character and conduct.

(Collins Australian Dictionary)

It is therefore your duty to improve the current system that has brought about the following:-

A massive increase in street violence and assaults fuelled by alcohol,

The un-necessary, over long and widely condemned trading hours,

Destruction of quiet residential areas, sometimes quite a distance from any hotel or tavern, by drunken, noisy and aggressive patrons in the early hours of the morning.

Points that I think you should ponder are:-

The reduction of the drinking age from 21 to 18 which has helped bring about binge drinking and an increase in adult alcoholism,

Obtaining a driver's licence and being legally allowed to drink alcohol now occurs only months apart instead of 4 years.

A recent T.V. poll showed that more than 90% of respondents favoured a reduction in trading hours.

I am a long-retired policeman who walked the beat in central Brisbane in the early 60's. The pubs opened at 10am, shut at 10pm and stayed closed all day Sunday. Public transport stopped running about midnight

.the drinking age was 21 and no liquor was allowed in the vicinity of a dance hall whilst a dance was in progress. By 1am or 2am you could fire a cannon down any of the main streets without hitting anyone

I, and many more like me, can see much change but very little progress. Never in all my years in the force did I witness anything like the street violence now shown on television.

I am against any extension of trading hours as I cannot think that trading after midnight is of any benefit to the community in general and our youth in particular.

I urge you to strongly refuse any request for longer trading hours and to remember that you are a Reform Team aiming for better conduct and behaviour.

Yours faithfully  
Donald THOMSON


