

The Hon John Rau MP

PREM16D01007

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Senator Glenn Lazarus
Chair
Legal and Constitutional Affairs
References Committee

By email: alcohol.violence.sen@aph.gov.au



**Government
of South Australia**

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Dear Senator Lazarus

Inquiry into the need for a nationally-consistent approach to alcohol-fuelled violence

Thank you for your letter dated 22 February 2016, to the Premier, Hon Jay Weatherill MP, inviting submissions to the inquiry. As the regulation of liquor licensing in South Australia falls under my portfolio responsibility, I am responding on these matters.

The South Australian Government has introduced a number of measures to reduce alcohol-fuelled violence.

In January 2013, the General Code of Practice (General Code) came into operation. The General Code applies to all licensees, and requires mandatory Responsible Service of Alcohol training for all staff involved in the service or supply of liquor.

The General Code also includes requirements relating to:

- minors;
- promoting a responsible attitude towards the consumption of liquor;
- intoxication and disorderly, offensive, abusive or violent behaviour;
- disturbances;
- drink spiking; and
- induction and refresher training by licensees.

In October 2013, the Late Night Trading Code of Practice (Late Night Code) came into operation for venues trading past 3am. The Late Night Code requires premises to adhere to a higher standard of operation during certain hours, to address the increased risks associated with late night trading.

The Late Night Code introduced new measures including:

- queue measurement;
- drink marshals;
- first aid;
- restrictions of the supply of free liquor and beverages that promote rapid/excessive consumption of alcohol;
- restrictions on the use of glassware;
- use of CCTV;
- use of metal detectors; and
- 3am late night restricted entry (“lock out”).

In 2015 an independent review was undertaken to ascertain the effectiveness on both Codes with particular emphasis on the Late Night Code.

As a result of the recommendations from the review, and the consultation process a number of changes were made to the Late Night Code.

The revised Late Night Code come into operation on 1 February 2016, and now applies as specified, to venues that trade past 12am, 2am and 3am with a number of measures now required to be implemented earlier.

In October 2015, the South Australian Government released a discussion paper for public consultation to ascertain what improvements can be made to the *Liquor Licensing Act 1997* (SA) to reduce red tape, promote a safer drinking culture and create vibrancy.

An independent review is currently being undertaken by the Honourable Timothy Anderson QC who will provide a report to the Government by 30 June 2016.

Given that the review on liquor licensing regulation is currently taking place, the South Australian Government will not be submitting any positions that may pre-empt the findings of the review.

Yours sincerely

John Rau
Deputy Premier
Minister for Consumer and Business Services