



Hon. George Souris M.P
Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing
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MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW EFFORTS TO PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE DRINKING ON TRACK

Minister for Hospitality, George Souris, welcomed a comprehensive report released today confirming the NSW Government's crackdown on problem liquor operators is working with irresponsible service and consumption of alcohol on licensed premises in decline.

Mr Souris said the report by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) shows NSW licensed premises are becoming more responsible in serving alcohol and young people less likely to abuse alcohol on licensed premises.

BOCSAR commissioned a survey of more than 2,500 young adults to assess responsible service of alcohol experiences.

"The NSW Government has made it clear it will not tolerate irresponsible service and consumption of alcohol and the associated community impacts," Mr Souris said.

"It is encouraging to see BOCSAR's survey results which found lower rates of excessive and frequent acute risk drinking by young people in licensed venues than in 2006.

"I also welcome BOCSAR's findings showing lower rates of young people exhibiting signs of intoxication and higher rates of them being more effectively targeted by responsible service of alcohol (RSA) measures in licensed venues.

"Licensed venues were found to be more stringent with RSA practices in dealing with intoxicated patrons, with higher proportions being refused alcohol or asked to leave, while also putting in place measures to prevent intoxication such as encouraging patrons to consume low-alcohol or non-alcoholic drinks and food.

"Congratulations to those responsible venues, their staff and patrons as well as authorities who have contributed to this positive result."

Although Mr Souris was pleased with the comments by the Director of the Bureau, Dr Don Weatherburn who said that the report showed the Government crackdown on irresponsible service of alcohol was working and that irresponsible service and consumption of alcohol on licensed premises was in decline, he also agreed with Dr Weatherburn that there is still a long way to go.

"Our Three Strikes disciplinary scheme imposes the toughest ever sanctions on irresponsible pubs, clubs, liquor stores and nightclubs that continually put the safety of patrons and the broader community at risk.

"Licensees who wilfully or knowingly commit serious offences are on notice that they face the ultimate sanction – loss of their liquor licence – if continually found wanting.

“The scheme provides enormous incentive for licensees to improve alcohol and security management and implement effective measures to prevent intoxication, underage drinking, violence and use of illicit drugs on their premises while NSW’s violent venues list names and shames venues that commit liquor law breaches.

“The NSW Government has also introduced the offence of Intoxicated and Disorderly and strengthened police move on powers to target individuals who drink to excess and participate in offensive and violent behaviour in public places.

“The Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing (OLGR) Liquor Accord Delivery Unit continues to support the State’s 149 liquor accords which implement a range of practical solutions to local alcohol problems including the promotion of responsible service and consumption of alcohol.

“NSW was also the first State to introduce a photo card to authenticate mandatory RSA training for bar workers in licensed venues. The Government is continuing to implement further measures to strengthen the training scheme including refresher training for all RSA certificate holders and an online training course to be launched later this year.

“OLGR and NSW Police also continue to work together to raise compliance standards across all licensed venues and enforce the liquor laws to improve patron and community safety.

“The NSW Government will continue to target irresponsible licensees and patrons and reduce alcohol-related violence and anti-social behaviour.”

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