



Hon. George Souris M.P
Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing
Minister for the Arts

MEDIA RELEASE

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STATEWIDE SURVEY TO PROFILE LIQUOR INDUSTRY

Every licensee in NSW is being quizzed about key aspects of their venue's operation, their knowledge of licence conditions and participation in liquor accords and staff numbers as part of a State wide survey over the next two months.

Minister for Hospitality, George Souris, said the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing (OLGR) will issue a State wide mail out to more than 16,900 licensees on Wednesday (February 8) as part of the survey to enhance compliance, enforcement and education initiatives.

"Under the liquor laws it is a requirement for every licensed venue in NSW to lodge a liquor licence return with the department every two years to provide a range of information about the operation of their venue," Mr Souris said.

"Pubs, registered clubs, nightclubs, restaurants, bottleshops and even wineries, licensed vessels and race tracks will lodge their liquor licence returns with OLGR by March 31.

"This process provides a snapshot of the State's liquor industry, ensures the continued accuracy of official licensing databases and informs compliance, enforcement and education initiatives.

"The information we are gathering not only helps to update official records with basic information such as contact details, it will also provide a profile of the liquor industry to gauge its social and economic role, and help shape liquor-related policies and initiatives.

"Licensees are asked to include information about their actual trading hours and how many people they employ including full-time, part-time and casual workers, as well as trainees and apprentices. The licence return also allows licensees to recognise the contribution of volunteers.

"As part of the survey, licensees are asked if they have recently reviewed their licence conditions to enhance their understanding of trading requirements and improve compliance standards.

"Licensees are also being asked to supply details of when their staff completed mandatory responsible service of alcohol training to assist with scheduling refresher training and replacing old paper certificates with new photo cards over the next five years.

"Venues are also being requested to provide details about premises size and capacity and total patron numbers on their busiest trading day last year. This information will assist in planning targeted compliance initiatives and in administering the **Three Strikes** disciplinary scheme for rogue licensees which requires venue size and capacity to be considered when strike decisions are made.

"The liquor licence return process also allows the Government to monitor licensee participation rates in local liquor accords and helps shape education and support initiatives under this program.

“The biennial liquor licence return requirement strikes the right balance between the need to collect up-to-date regulatory information and minimise red tape faced by industry.

“Licensees can complete their liquor licence return in about 15 minutes by using a convenient online lodgement system.”

Highlights of the first liquor licence return held in 2010:

- The survey was sent to 15,546 licensees
- 92% reported that the licence was currently trading
- 4% reported an intention to resume trading within the next 12 months
- 77% supplied an email address to facilitate communication with the regulator
- 35% supplied a business web address
- 13% reported abiding with one or more voluntary undertakings with a court, police or local council
- 58% reported they were aware of their local liquor accord
- 41% reported they were a member of their local liquor accord
- 54,447 full-time workers employed
- 29,190 part-time workers employed
- 79,738 casual workers employed
- 5,734 apprentices employed
- 9,275 volunteers involved in licensed premises.

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