Lloyd, Brian

From: mark ryan
Sent: Thursday, 1 March 2012 12:07 PM
To: Lloyd, Brian
Subject: Brief submission/liq fees Mark Ryan

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ACT LA
COMMITTEE OFFICE

To: The Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety regarding its inquiry into the Liquor Licensing Fees review and Subordinate Laws for the ACT.

The current fee structure for liquour licenses:

1. Do not take into consideration the different loading capacities of venues and unfairly discriminates against smaller venues, by penalising late hour trading.eg Krave Nite Club has capacity of 225, Shooters 287,Cube 297 and pay Approx $21000 each Uni pub has a loading of approx 980, Mooseheads799,Academy approx 670,icbm mesh northbar group 990,King Omalleys 724, most of these being approximately three times larger than the smaller venues as listed (All this excluding popularity) pays approx $24000. (Only Approx $3000 more than the smaller venues) Smaller venues have to find nearly 3 times the amount from each potential customer (per loading) to pay the current Licensing fee.
2. With the imposition of such high fees, smaller venues face increased difficulties in meeting trading costs. Such money could be better spent on developing more effective internal systems such as increasing security or just paying for their fixed or variable overheads.
3. A proper liquor licensing system should be based on a taxation scheme, i.e. based on turnover. It should look at metrics such as volume of alcohol sold or purchased and more reasonably take into account the sale of liquor from all operators (including off-licence outlets). Alcohol risk mitigation is society based problem (not purely focussed on Civic as some powerful media lobbyists have suggested).
4. The system should give incentives to smaller traders rather than penalise them. These venues are being penalised when the likelihood of anti-social behaviour occurring is minimal,compared to larger venues.
5. Often the largest venues pose the most significant risk as they are the ones that attract the high number of young adolescent drinkers and tablet consumers. Allocative efficiency would therefore mean that these venues who impose the greatest regulatory effort bear commensurate costs.
6. The use of party drugs should be recognised as part contributor to anti social behaviour and recognised as a social problem and fees distributed appropriately, not hitting the late time night venues with the burden of the costs.
7. Off Licence traders do a brisk trade between 6-11pm. Many people are preloading before going out to late night venues at a later time (its cheaper for consumers)
8. Observation, all venues in the City that are established have noted a considerable down turn in trade since the public discussion of these and other issues in the last 7 or so months.

Mark Ryan
Licensee
Krave Niteclub Pty Ltd [redacted] 80 Canberra Ave Griffith ACT 2603

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