



Business Improvement
Group of Northbridge



Australian Hotels Association
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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Media Release

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INDUSTRY UNITED AGAINST LOCKOUTS

The Australian Hotels Association (WA) and the Business Improvement Group of Northbridge Licensee Subcommittee (BIG N) has thrown their support behind a public awareness campaign highlighting State Government plans to impose lockouts across any or all licensed venues in WA.

The 'Don't Lock Me Out' campaign is targeting proposed changes to the Liquor Control Act currently before State Parliament that would give the Government carte blanche authority to impose lockouts on clubs, bottleshops, pubs, taverns, bars, restaurants and nightclubs without each venue being judged on its individual merits.

AHA(WA), CEO, Bradley Woods said the legislation is unnecessary as the Director of Liquor Licensing already has the power under the Act to impose lockouts on venues that deserve them.

"The State Government's plan has the potential to impact every licensed venue in WA and every responsible patron that wants to go out and enjoy themselves," Mr Woods said.

"Lockouts are an extreme disciplinary measure that should always be considered on a case-by-case basis and the current system gives the Director of Liquor Licensing that power.

"The proposed legislation has the potential to unfairly restrict the trading hours of good venues that cater for a variety of patrons throughout the state."

Big N Chairperson, Mike Keiller, said government's in the eastern states appreciated the economic contribution of late night entertainment precincts and only imposed lockouts well beyond midnight because licensing hours were less regulated.

He said little evidence was provided to indicate lockouts work and at times were only imposed to pacify media pressure.



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“Lockouts remove the rights of responsible people to choose where they want to go and will see cutbacks in the amount of staff employed in hospitality venues and the ability for bands to play in front of vibrant audiences,” Mr Keiller said.

“Once a venue locks its doors, you can’t come in and if you go out for a cigarette or to escort a friend to a taxi then you will have to go home.

“Good venues don’t deserve lockouts and this legislation will discriminate against good venues and good patrons.”

Support for the ‘Don’t Lock Me Out’ campaign can be registered by at www.dontlockmeout.com.au

**For further information please contact Doug White, AHA Manager Media and Public Affairs
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