



Australian Hotels Association
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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POLICE POWERS WILL MAKE ENTERTAINMENT AREAS SAFER

New 'stop and search' legislation announced by the State Government will create a safer environment and make it more attractive for people to go into late night entertainment precincts such as Northbridge, according to the Australian Hotels association (WA)

AHA (WA) CEO, Bradley Woods, said the hotel and hospitality industry was supportive of Police being able to target drug-dealers and people who carry weapons into areas where people are trying to have a good time.

"This legislation has the potential to allow responsible people to reclaim our entertainment precincts from those criminals that want to deal drugs and commit violent assaults," Mr Woods said.

"There is absolutely no justification for someone carrying a concealed weapon into an area where people are trying to have fun. People that do are simply looking to commit violent assaults against innocent people and they need to be removed from our late night areas."

Mr Woods said the State Government was responding to calls from the community and the hospitality industry to target illicit drug use and thugs.

"Our members have been telling us that people who are under the influence of illicit drugs, such as ice, who then consume alcohol have the propensity to react violently against staff, other patrons and police," he said.

"Grabbing these people on the street, before they enter venues is going to deliver a better environment for a wider range of people instead of making it easier for thugs and idiots to behave anti-socially."

Mr Woods said the industry also recognises the roles that responsible service of alcohol practices and patron responsibility play in developing safer late night areas.

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