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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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# Media Release

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## AHA says some venues need to ban glass

The Australian Hotels Association (WA) today backed calls by Premier Colin Barnett for some problematic venues to replace glass with a safer alternative to reduce the impact of glass attacks.

AHA (WA) CEO, Bradley Woods, said that the industry needed to respond to the minority of idiots that are ruining the pub experience for many patrons by removing glass on a case by case basis, while calling for mandatory compensation for victims of glass attacks.

“The unfortunate reality is that a grotesque minority of thugs have won the battle and the majority of law abiding, respectful people will be penalised,” said Mr Woods.

“The Premier got it right yesterday when he said that we don’t need mandatory bans on glassware across the industry, but do need to be moving towards responsible alternatives to address the damage that is being caused to innocent victims.”

Mr Woods said society needed to crack down on cowards who are intent on picking up a glass or bottle and intentionally maiming patrons whose only crime was having a good time with friends.

“If you pick up a glass and smash it into someone’s face you should have to pay that person compensation for the lifetime of their injuries,” he said.

“The AHA has been working closely with the state’s licensing authorities to identify alternatives and a set of criteria for a national standard for glass replacement products.

“However, we need to be mindful that banning glass in some venues, determined on a case-by-case basis, will not stop glass attacks outside of venues or people using other items such as pool cues or bar stools as weapons.”

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