

Deputy Premier John Rau MP

Minister for Consumer and Business Services

Wednesday, 13 December 2017

Teen drinking crackdown

The first set of reforms to South Australia's liquor laws will come into effect this month, cracking down on the dangerous supply of alcohol to teenagers.

The new laws come into effect on 18 December, making the supply of liquor to a minor under 18 and the consumption or possession of liquor by a minor an offence, except under strict conditions.

The State Government will use the laws to target big parties and events where groups of young people are being supplied with alcohol. The alcohol fuelled "after party" for minors will be a thing of the past.

Minors will still be able to consume alcohol under specific conditions, for example when supplied by their parent at home under responsible supervision as outlined in the legislation.

A person who supplies liquor to a minor in contravention of the new laws will face a maximum penalty of \$10,000 or a fine of \$500, while a minor who is caught with liquor in contravention of the new laws will face a maximum penalty of \$2,500 or a fine of \$210.

Other reforms being implemented on 18 December aim to reduce red tape and administrative burden for business, including:

- Automatic extension of liquor trading on New Year's Day until 2am
- Relaxation of restrictive trading conditions on Sundays, Good Friday, the day after Good Friday, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Eve
- Licence exemptions for low-risk businesses
- Removal of the requirement for licensees to seek approval of the Licensing Authority to provide entertainment (except for prescribed items, such as adult entertainment), and
- Provisions to allow the temporary approval of a responsible person for up to six months.

Background

Sweeping changes to the *Liquor Licensing Act* were passed by State Parliament on 14 November 2017.

The reforms will commence in different stages to enable operational changes and to allow for further consultation on aspects of the reforms.

The reforms were developed in response to a 2016 review conducted by retired Supreme Court Judge Tim Anderson QC, which made 129 recommendations.

Extensive consultation occurred with the community and the sector in the lead up to the reforms, including input on a 2015 discussion paper, submissions as part of Mr Anderson's 2016 review and engagement on draft legislation in late 2016 and early 2017.

Quotes attributable to Consumer and Business Services Minister John Rau

Tim Anderson's review into our liquor laws highlighted the need for tougher laws governing the supply of alcohol to minors.

We've moved to progress these as a matter of priority to ensure young people are better protected, while maintaining a common sense approach.

Our concern is events targeting teens - parties where parents often don't know what is going on, and certainly haven't given permission.

We are not talking about parents wanting to give their child a sip of champagne on New Year's Eve. We are talking about organised and deliberate attempts to supply alcohol to crowds of underage teenagers.

These provisions aim to protect young people.

These are reforms which aim to reduce red tape, improve public safety and provide opportunities for our hospitality industry.