

Mr Paul McLeay MP
Chair
Public Accounts Committee
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2009

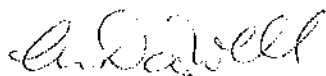
Dear Mr Leay

I refer to your letter of 6 May 2009 on behalf of the Public Accounts Committee seeking detail on the Department of the Arts, Sport and Recreation's response to the Auditor-General's report No. 179 *Working with Hotels and Clubs to reduce alcohol-related crime* tabled on 23 April 2008.

Please find attached the Department's response to each recommendation in the requested format. The implementation of recommendations has been good with actions completed or on track for completion.

If you require further information, please contact Paul McCarthy on 8233 1340.

Yours sincerely



Mary Darwell
A/g Director-General

12 June 2009

Performance audit – Working with hotels and clubs to reduce alcohol-related crime

Implementation of recommendations

	Recommendation	Accepted or rejected	Actions to be taken	Due Date	Status (completed, on track, delayed) Comments	Responsibility
1	<p>That NSW Police and OLGR establish a working party to:</p> <p>a) clarify their roles and responsibilities under the new liquor laws</p> <p>b) develop a joint approach to licensing that includes both education and enforcement strategies, by December 2008</p> <p>c) develop a risk-based annual program which identifies the areas and licensed premises to be targeted as part of its licensing operations, which is reviewed at least quarterly, by December 2008</p>	Accepted	<p>(a) & (b) A senior NSW Police officer has been appointed to the Gaming and Liquor Licensing Implementation Committee, an OLGR established working group to manage the change arising from the new legislation. A joint interagency working group of key operational Police and OLGR officers has been established to facilitate a cohesive and seamless joint roll out of enforcement and educational strategies.</p> <p>(c) A risk based program presently exists that will be enhanced to be an annual joint agency initiative. However, OLGR's strategic enforcement initiatives are inherently short term to medium term designed for long term outcomes. Hot spot venues and regions will be identified through ongoing various information gathering initiatives.</p> <p>Additionally, OLGR is a key partner in all of the CPP programs</p>	Dec 2008	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>The working group to facilitate the implementation of the new Liquor Act has been concluded.</p> <p>An interagency working group comprising of OLGR and Police was established on 15 August 2008 to agree roles and responsibilities in regard to enforcement and education strategies and avoid duplication. The group has endorsed a strategic program, reviewed monthly, that prioritises enforcement resources to hot spots.</p> <p>The working group convenes quarterly, with out of session sub-committees meeting as required.</p>	OLGR/Police

2	That NSW Police and OLGR ensure that all relevant information about licensed premises is accessible to each agency so they can better target high-risk premises	-	-	N/a	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>Police and OLGR co-developed the Alcohol Related Crime Information Exchange (ARCIE) project. The ARCIE database is operational and available to front line police and inspectors who have immediate access to relevant crime information associated with licensed premises.</p> <p>OLGR is using the Government Licensing System as the primary statewide licensing database. It will be developed further to interface with ARCIE and OLGR's Compliance Management Information System (CMIS).</p>	OLGR/police
3	That NSW Police and OLGR review the impact of their operations to determine what works best in the long term to reduce alcohol-related crime, and disseminate and share good practice	Agreed	OLGR operational procedures now ensure that NSW Police are informed of the strategies and outcomes more often and more formally. These new procedures will be more effective with the roll-out of the ARCIE program, development of the OLGR website, and within the framework of the new Liquor Act	N/a	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>OLGR's compliance management system presents a range of data to assist with enforcement strategies.</p> <p>The development of a new business unit within OLGR has facilitated the provision of strategic advice on the most effective controls to reduce alcohol-related crime and how they should be implemented. In addition, the unit drafts policies and standards which highlight good practice.</p> <p>In October 2008, the Government announced a package of measures to reduce alcohol related crime. The high level Implementation Team established to oversee the measures includes representatives from NSW Police and OLGR. This enables high level cross agency collaboration on</p>	OLGR/Police

					strategies, information sharing and good practice.	
4	That OLGR and Police develop and deliver by July 2010, statewide patron education campaigns on the liquor laws, including the consequences of breaking the law for both patrons and licensees	Agreed	<p>OLGR is the chair of the Liquor Working Group within the Crime Prevention Steering Committee. The Director of Liquor and Gaming has powers under the new Liquor Act to require a prescribed standard message on discount liquor advertising and promotions. The Director is currently consulting with industry and government stakeholders, including NSW Health to develop a common branded message with a utility through the state and other states.</p> <p>The OLGR Liquor Accord Delivery Unit is examining the effectiveness of various patron communication initiatives already implemented through the 144 liquor accords. Additionally, OLGR has commenced a research project examining the ways to maximise the capacity of accords, particularly having accords engage wider in the community on such issues as patron education programs.</p>	July 2010	<p>ON TRACK</p> <p>OLGR are assisting NSW Police roll out the 'Your Choice' and 'Supply Means Supply' statewide alcohol diversionary programs through funding provided through the Alcohol Education Rehabilitation Program (\$330,000).</p> <p>In 2008/9 OLGR funded the continuation of successful 'No Excuse' patron secondary supply program with the purchase of 5000 posters and underpinned the initiative with collateral available on the OLGR database.</p> <p>OLGR supported the roll-out of the NSW Health initiative 'Be part of it, Not out of It' to liquor accords and CPP areas.</p> <p>Liquor Accord research is ongoing.</p>	OLGR/Police

5	That NSW Police and OLGR assist NSW Health in developing and implementing statewide public education campaigns on responsible drinking	Agreed	The Director of Liquor and Gaming has powers under the new Liquor Act to require a prescribed standard message on discount liquor advertising and promotions. The Director is currently consulting with industry and government stakeholders, including NSW Health to develop a common branded message with a utility through the state and other states.		<p>ON TRACK</p> <p>In April 2009, the Director published draft industry guidelines regarding prohibited and undesirable liquor promotions.</p> <p>OLGR also partnered with NSW Health on a proposal to have industry voluntarily trial a responsible consumption message on liquor advertising. Health is currently preparing a project plan which OLGR will submit to industry for consideration.</p> <p>The <i>What are you Doing to Yourself?</i> responsible drinking campaign by NSW Health encouraged young people to reflect on and take personal responsibility for the alcohol consumption and behaviour. The Implementation Team was involved by NSW Health on this campaign which ran in locations with high reported rates of alcohol-related violence from January to May 2009.</p>	OLGR/Police
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6	<p>The NSW Police and OLGR continue to work with the AHA and ClubsNSW to ensure licensees are informed about the alcohol-linking project and other new initiatives, including how data is used.</p>	-	-	<p>ON TRACK</p> <p>OLGR maintains a strong relationship with the AHA and ClubsNSW.</p> <p>The Director of Liquor and Gaming and the Chair of the Implementation Team meets with industry regularly to discuss issues relating to the implementation of the Government's initiatives to reduce alcohol related crime, including the data available to measure compliance and effectiveness.</p> <p>OLGR facilitated industry education on the alcohol linking project through Liquor Accord information sessions presented by Senior Drug and Alcohol Unit police.</p> <p>The availability of industry workshops and information regarding new initiatives is promoted on the OLGR website and through the Liquor + Gaming magazine and regular e-bulletins.</p> <p>OLGR send monthly stakeholder reports to peak industry bodies detailing compliance and business activities and outcomes.</p>	OLGR/Police
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7	That OLGR, by July 2009, monitor the effectiveness of liquor accords to identify strategies that reduce alcohol-related harm, such as crime and anti-social behaviour	Agreed	<p>OLGRs Liquor Accord Delivery Unit rolled out 35 workshops to accords licensees in 2007-08. The workshops focused on strengthening the capacity of accords to identify local problems, gather reliable information, develop and implement sustainable strategies, and finally report outcomes.</p> <p>As part of the extra resources to implement the new Liquor Act, the LADU will be allocated five new officers who will support accords throughout NSW in implementing, monitoring and reporting strategies and objectives.</p>	July 2009	<p>ON TRACK</p> <p>In 2008 the Alcohol Education and Research Foundation provided a \$260,000 grant for OLGR to implement strategies to sustain NSW liquor accords and improve their capacity to support safe and responsible drinking environments. The project is due to be completed by December 2009. The project is managed by OLGR and guided by the Project Steering Committee consisting of accord representatives, NSW Health, local government and industry associations</p> <p>In 2008 OLGR conducted 36 workshops attended by liquor accord coordinators throughout NSW. Follow up investigation on the outcomes of the workshops is now proceeding.</p> <p>In 2009/10, OLGR will further support liquor accords through a series of workshops which aim to strengthen the strategic alliance between regulator and industry.</p>	OLGR
8	That OLGR, by December 2008, include on its website the results of enforcement action taken against licensees by Police and OLGR for breaches of the liquor laws	Agreed	OLGR already informs stakeholders in various ways including several electronic bulletins. It is also the intention of the Director to post the outcome of liquor law enforcement operations and formal decisions made, but taking into account operational imperatives and the secrecy provisions of the legislation.	Dec 2008	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>The Commissioner is considering a report which confirms the confidentiality provisions of the Casino, Liquor and Gaming Control Authority Act preventing publication of such material.</p>	OLGR