



NSW Police Force

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Mr Paul Green MLC
Legislative Council
Portfolio Committee No.6 – Planning and Environment
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

D/2018/562130

Dear Mr Green,

I refer to your e-mail dated 31 May 2018, addressed to Assistant Commissioner Mark Walton APM, Commander, Central Metropolitan Region regarding the Inquiry into the music and arts economy in New South Wales.

Assistant Commissioner Walton appeared as a witness at the Inquiry on 28 May 2018 and agreed to answer additional questions on notice.

Please find attached the responses of Assistant Commissioner Walton.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

for **M J Fuller APM**
Commissioner of Police



Portfolio Committee No. 6 – Planning and Environment
Inquiry into the Music and Arts Economy in NSW.
Hearing – Monday 28 May 2018
NSW Police Force

Question 1 – Existence of available research relating to risks linked to music venues.

(The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM): **Do you have access to research that you think might be helpful to the Committee, specifically about music venues?** You may want to provide that on notice, but I think that would be very helpful. Obviously, there are a range of venues operating across the city and the State. It has been hard for the Committee to **get evidence about the sorts of risks, specifically in music venues.** Is that something you can shed some light on?

(Mr WALTON): It is such an eclectic group. I can appreciate that it is difficult to come up with some data. We can take that on notice and see what we could provide but trying to distinguish a music venue from another licensed venue may make that quite difficult.

Note: During the inquiry (page 20 of transcript) Mr Walton refers to a NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) report / data prepared some years ago relating to a review on the density of licensed premises. This report found that in general terms, the denser the offerings and the later the trading, the more risk it was determined that the properties were. This may be something to source and include in our response.

RESPONSE

The NSWPF does not conduct research relevant to music venues. The following comments may assist the Committee.

As described by A/C Walton, NSWPF systems do not allow for this data to be easily extracted. Police incident reports do not capture music types at licensed premises. Licensed premises are not obliged to report on the type of music they provide. However, high-risk promotions that are known to police for prior incidents inside licensed premises, are closely monitored via social media. The venue's websites and Licensing Police regularly engage the licensee's and/or owners of the premise to discuss precautionary control measures aimed at minimising the risk of an incident (i.e. additional security guards, no glass, additional RSA marshals) or disturbance to the neighbourhood. Historically, popular music promotions or bands have regular (sometimes cult like) followings by fans – the premise usually embrace popular acts as they are guaranteed full capacity and increased bar sales. However, it may not be a regular promotion type for the premise, so strict control measures may only be applicable when a high-risk promotion is performing.

Licensed Premises may vary the type of music played and the way it is provided. For example, Radio, Digital Music, single performer, DJ, bands or a combination of them. An on-premises licence allows alcohol to be sold with, or ancillary to, another product or service that is sold, supplied or provided to people on the premises. Licensed premises from a licensed café to a late trading nightclub fall under this category. Under this licence category the premise does not need a separate approval if entertainment is only part of the venue's main business. However, if the entertainment will fundamentally change the principal use of venue, the venue may require development approval from the local council.

Police in the Sydney CBD note, premises that play live music do from time to time come under notice for the anti-social or violent behaviour of patrons inside or outside the venue.

SENSITIVE – LAW ENFORCEMENT

The NSWPF, in enforcing licensing and Development Application conditions or through the imposition of further tailored conditions can achieve reductions in the frequency and seriousness of such behaviour.

Regarding the reference to BOCSAR: -

BOCSAR Crime and Justice Bulletin No. 147 from 2011 reviewed "The association between alcohol outlet density and assaults on and around licensed premises". It concluded, "Limiting the density of alcohol outlets may help limit the incidence of assault". Included is the observation that for "each additional alcohol outlet per hectare in the Sydney LGA will result, on average, in 4.5 additional assaults per annum".

Aim: To estimate the proportion of assaults occurring on or around licensed premises, determine whether assaults are more likely to happen around licensed premises than elsewhere and estimate the effect of additional alcohol outlets (outlet density) on the incidence of assault.

Method: Clusters of licensed premises in the Sydney Local Government Area (LGA) were identified. The proportion of recorded assault incidents within 20, 50, 100 and 200 metre buffer zones around the licensed premises was calculated and compared with the proportion of land area covered by the buffer. The incidence of recorded assaults as a function of increasing counts of alcohol outlets was also examined.

Results: Assaults were found to be highly concentrated around licensed premises. Assaults tend to cluster around George Street in the central business district (CBD), Darlinghurst Road in Kings Cross, Oxford Street in Darlinghurst, King Street in Newtown and Glebe Point Road in Glebe. The highest concentrations of assault are in Kings Cross, Oxford Street in Darlinghurst and along George Street in the CBD. More than half of the assaults recorded by police in the Sydney CBD occur within 50 metres of a liquor outlet. Only 3 per cent of the Sydney LGA is within 20 metres of a liquor outlet, yet 37 per cent of assaults in Sydney LGA occurred in this sPACe. The results suggest that each additional alcohol outlet per hectare in the Sydney LGA will result, on average, in 4.5 additional assaults per annum.

Conclusion: Limiting the density of alcohol outlets may help limit the incidence of assault.

Burgess, M & Moffat, S. 2011. The association between alcohol outlet density and assaults on and around licensed premises. *BOCSAR Crime and Justice Bulletin*. Vol 147. Available at <http://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/Documents/CJB/cjb147.pdf> (14/6/18)

Consider accessing publications by the National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund including Monograph No. 67 "Drug and Alcohol Intoxication and Subsequent Harm in Night-time Entertainment Districts".

Question 2 - NSW Police Linkage with other stakeholders?

(The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM): Any evidence you are able to provide would be helpful. **Is the police force at the table with the music industry through any sort of music roundtable process?** I understand that is the case in Victoria, where that on the ground information about what is going on has been very helpful guiding the Victorian Government through some similar challenges for their city.

SENSITIVE – LAW ENFORCEMENT

(Mr WALTON): I am not aware of any direct relationship, or ongoing relationship with the music industry in particular. Clearly, our relationships extend into our regulatory and general policing functions across all our commands and, quite importantly, in those major events that occur. But, specifically with the music industry I am not aware of that. I can certainly take that on notice.

RESPONSE

Police in the Sydney CBD does not have any formal or informal relationship with the music industry. It does meet with promoters of music events, particularly those that carry a risk and where NSWPF is seeking to ensure they are managed appropriately.

Question 3 – Data re savings (police resources) as a result of a reduction in GBH assaults.

(The CHAIR): Obviously it would, but on average, how many police would be tied up with one incident of grievous bodily harm?

(Mr WALTON): If you are talking about grievous harm there will always be at least a couple of detectives. Then it would depend on the number of witnesses and the follow-up, gathering the evidence with CCTV and the arrests. Thereafter there is the court time. And that is without the other agencies, particularly the impact on Health in treating those grievous injuries. It is a significant amount of time that we get back.

(The CHAIR): **Do you have the data to show the savings and the benefits of such?**

(Mr WALTON): We do have some data. I can provide that on notice—some of the estimated percentages moving away from the time that we used to react to alcohol related crime within the city in particular, and the percentages that have now reduced, and some estimates on the amount of time we have gained as a result.

RESPONSE

All Alcohol Related Incidents

As a percentage of all reported COPS incidents, alcohol related incidents in Kings Cross dropped (6%) from 26% to 20% from 2013 to 2015. Sydney City PAC dropped (5%) from 21% to 16% for the same period. The decrease in incidents reflects the reduction in Police time occupied with responding to such crimes. Note that they include all alcohol related incidents. No figures are obtainable showing hours saved in the reduction in the given incidents.

Alcohol Related Incidents					
Alcohol Related	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Kings Cross	9,222	8,915	6,694	6,057	6,042
% of all Incidents	26	24	20	18	18
Sydney City PAC	19,268	15,094	14,877	16,191	14,824
% of all Incidents	21	17	16	17	18

(Source: EIM/COPS Data 2013 – 2017)

SENSITIVE – LAW ENFORCEMENT

Assault Occasioning Grievous Bodily Harm (6pm – 6am)

For the hours of 6pm – 6am the Kings Cross PAC saw a 79% reduction in assault occasioning grievous bodily harm incidents from 2012 to 2017. Surry Hills saw a 38% reduction while Sydney City PAC saw a 73% reduction. Considerably more resources, including time, are allocated to the investigation of such incidents.

CMR PACs	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	% Change 2012 to 2017
Kings Cross	39	29	9	15	12	8	-79
Surry Hills	24	14	7	8	14	15	-38
Sydney City PAC	59	53	19	25	35	16	-73
Precinct PACs Total	122	96	35	48	61	39	-68

(Source: EIM/COPS Data 2013 – 2017)

Question 4 - Data re Noise Complaints Linked to Licensed Premises.

(The CHAIR): You said that noise complaints were becoming more of an issue in the past two years as density has built up. How many did you attend in the past two years?

(Mr WALTON): Only two. There have only been two.

(The CHAIR): **How can we measure that (noise complaints) with the previous two years?**

(Mr WALTON): I would have to take that on notice and give a graph.

RESPONSE

For the Kings Cross & Sydney City PACs (only) there have been the following number of Noise Abatement Incidents recorded on COPS for the given years.

This is clearly contrary to public perception regarding Police involvement in shutting down licensed premises due to noise complaints.

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
3	2	1	2	0	1

(Source: COPS Data 2012 – 2017)

Sydney City Council may be able to provide further information regarding the number of breaches of license conditions relating to excessive noise. Sydney City PAC Licensing advise have not prosecuted premises in relation to noise issues in the given period.

CAD INCIDENTS (Computer Aided Dispatch)

Calls regarding levels of noise at licensed premises (includes all license types) for the Kings Cross, Sydney City and Surry Hills PACs.

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
119	95	116	112	101	104

SENSITIVE – LAW ENFORCEMENT

(Source: CAD Data 2012 – 2017)

Note: These are calls for service only and reflect licensed locations nominated by the caller. On attending Police may have determined the noise was not an issue or that the location was an adjacent premise. Further they may have resolve the callers concerns through further liaison with the premise management.

Question 5 – Data re GBH & Noise Complaints – comparison of The Star Vs CBD / Kings Cross

(The CHAIR): In your command have you got The Star casino precinct?

(Mr WALTON): Yes.

(The CHAIR): **Can you give us some stats of what that sees in the way of actual grievous harm and also the noise complaints, so we can benchmark against the other side of town?**

(Mr WALTON): They would be available, yes.

(The CHAIR): Can you take that on notice?

(Mr WALTON): Yes.

RESPONSE:

Noise Complaints

There have been no calls for service regarding noise at the Casino in the period 2012 – 2017. (Source: CAD Data 2012 – 2017). Sydney City Licensing have not received written complaints about noise for the given period (Source Sydney City Licensing Office).

Top 10 licensed premises subject of calls about noise in the Kings Cross, Sydney City and Surry Hills PACs (CAD)

Licensed Premises	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Frisco Hotel, WOOLLOOMOOLOO	0	0	1	2	13	16
Tilbery Hotel, WOOLLOOMOOLOO	5	10	3	2	1	8
Gazebo, ELIZABETH BAY	7	2	7	1	2	0
Cruise Bar, THE ROCKS	0	2	3	2	4	7
Dolton House, PYRMONT	0	4	6	2	3	2
Flinders Bar, SURRY HILLS	11	3	2	0	0	1
O'Malley's, SYDNEY	2	5	4	1	5	0
Club 77, DARLINGHURST	5	5	1	1	2	2
Museum of Contemporary Arts, THE ROCKS	0	2	6	2	2	4

(Source: CAD Data 2012 – 2017)

This information is provided to assist as a benchmark. These are calls for service only and reflect licensed locations nominated by the caller. On attending Police may have determined the noise was not an issue or that the location was an adjacent premise. Further they may have resolve the callers concerns through further liaison with the premise management.

SENSITIVE – LAW ENFORCEMENT

Assault Occasioning Grievous Bodily Harm (AOGBH) at Licensed Premises (2013–2017)

Provided as means to benchmark calls for service. Listed are premises with two or more incidents over the given period.

Licensed Premises	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
The Star	1	2	1	1	0
Bar 333	2	0	0	0	0
Dynasty Karaoke	0	1	0	0	1
Home Nightclub	1	0	0	1	0
Ivy	1	1	0	0	0
Pontoon Bar	1	0	1	0	0
Scruffy Murphy's	2	0	0	0	0
Sydney Hilton Hotel	0	0	0	2	0

(Source: CAD Data 2012 – 2017)

Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm at Licensed Premises (2013-2017)

Listed are premises with 16 or more incidents over the given period within the Sydney City PAC.

Licensed Premise	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
The Star	11	25	16	22	15	89
Ivy	8	8	5	14	9	44
Scruffy Murphy's	9	4	4	3	9	29
The Pyrmont Bridge Hotel	2	3	3	6	6	20
Establishment Hotel	4	4	4	3	4	19
Home Nightclub	2	3	3	3	5	16
Pontoon Bar	2	2	6	5	1	16
Scary Canary	4	1	4	4	3	16

Source: EIM 05/07/2018

Question 6 - Request for contact in VicPOL

(The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD): No, it was live music venues applications. I will leave that for you to check. But that is a positive move, in my view. Obviously, you have relationships and dialogue with your colleague's interstate. Could you give us some feedback about why Victoria, Melbourne, does not have the problems that Sydney has confronted? We are getting evidence that live music is moving to Melbourne because of the different environment there. Do you have any feedback on why Melbourne would be doing better than we are?

(Mr WALTON): I do not. They would be things I would need to research with colleagues. But about six years ago I did have a visit down there to Melbourne and they were suffering very similar issues at the time. They had some regulatory framework around lockout, lock-in timing. I do not know where they are at now in Victoria.

(The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD): That was withdrawn, that failed, I think, from memory. **On notice you might be able to recommend someone of your similar rank in the Victorian police with your experience that we could perhaps meet with in Melbourne.**

SENSITIVE – LAW ENFORCEMENT

(Mr WALTON): I could certainly make those inquiries and see who might be a suitable person to discuss this with.

RESPONSE

On 12/6/2018, VICPOL contact supplied.

Question 7 - Opportunities / strategies / programs to deal with the issue of sexual assault in licensed premises.

(The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM): In relation to question of **sexual assault** in venues, which has been a particular focus in Victoria, **I am interested in what is happening to deal with this issue. What opportunities do you think there are to tackle this issue, which increasingly seems to be openly discussed?**

(Mr WALTON): Sexual assault does remain really the crime category that we have not influenced in a downward fashion. Here in the Sydney area we are about to roll out two different programs. The first one has been used in a number of country locations. I think it was launched in Tweed Heads recently, cooperatively with the Australian Hotels Association [AHA] and the Licensed Clubs Association. It is colloquially known as Ask for Angela. There is a small amount of training going to the staff there, firstly, to be proactive with people who they feel are vulnerable but allowing vulnerable people to approach staff with that code term.

The other program that we intend to market here in the city—and the best way to research this issue would be to google Cup of Tea consent—it has taken us about six months to get some intellectual property releases and get to a point where we again are going to partner with industry and try to market what is, I think, is often a vulnerability: That perpetrators do not seem to have a proper appreciation of what consent is. There is an analogy between sexual consent and having a cup of tea, which is British. It may not be the only program, but it is one we are going to uplift and trial in the city.

(The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM): Again, if we could put those to your notice, **I think that would be very helpful to have that (information about the two programs) in front of the Committee.**

Ask for Angela Campaign

In May 2017, the Wagga Wagga Liquor Accord was the first in New South Wales to roll out the international 'Ask for Angela' campaign, where female patrons can subtly ask bar staff for assistance in a difficult situation. Followed by the New South Wales Police Force, who teamed with Sydney City Council and the Australian Hotels Association to launch the internationally recognised safety campaign within the Sydney CBD. The concept has already been successfully trialled by Police, the AHA and Liquor Accords in Albury, Orange and Byron Bay.

Under the program, which originated two years ago in Lincolnshire, England, when a patron "Asks for Angela" at a participating venue, the code-word triggers a response from trained staff who will discreetly escort that person to safety or contact authorities for further assistance. The "Ask for Angela" is the latest in a series of initiatives by NSWPF and aimed at preventing sexual assaults in the community. "NSWPF have been working with the Liquor Accord partners, the Australian Hotels Association, the City of Sydney and others to ensure staff at hotels, bars, restaurants and other licensed venues are familiar with the code-word concept. In addition to training licensees and their staff, Police and their partners have produced a demonstration video, posters, coasters and other materials to highlight how the initiative works.

SENSITIVE – LAW ENFORCEMENT

Consent is Like a Cup of Tea

In May 2015 the Thames Valley Police in England launched a campaign to raise awareness and understanding of sexual consent. 'Consent is like a Cup of Tea' was a short video used during the campaign that featured animated stick figures and a cup of tea as an analogy for sex. The simplicity of this video reaches all demographics and has been effective in its message, emphasising sex without consent is a criminal offence.

The NSWPF have received approval by the Thames Valley Police and Blue Seat Studios (the advertising company responsible for the video) to utilise this video as part of our own campaign to conduct crime education about sexual consent.

The Ask for Angela program will be released on the 10th July 2018 accompanied with a media release launched by the Minister of Police across the Sydney CBD. We anticipate the launch of the Consent is like a Cup of Tea in mid-August 2018. Critical to this release, is the marketing of this second initiative flows on from the Ask for Angela campaign.

ADDITIONAL Questions on Notice *(lodged by the Committee after the hearing)*

Point 1: The Committee has had strong evidence from venues relating to restrictions on their operation placed by either state or local government, which on the face of them, seem overly prescriptive.

Question 2: **Could the NSW Police advise which of the following regulations are considered important from a safety or a policing viewpoint?**

- Restrictions on what type of music can be played. For example, the Terrigal Hotel had a condition that restricted it from playing 'rock music', although other genres were allowed.

The no 'rock music' license condition was altered after the appeal to reflect the intent of the condition namely to regulate the noise emanating from licensed venues rather than the genre. Due to copyright restrictions, the 2013/00369395 - Andrew James BIGGS v R Judgement can't be attached, however, consider accessing open source for further detail.

- Venue decorations, specifically mirror balls. Are there other venue decorations which might need to be regulated?

Venue decorations such as a mirror ball in and of themselves are not considered a significant issue. However, the installation of a mirror ball implies an intent to provide for a dance floor.

The inclusion of a dance floor would need to be considered in a Development Application approval. Police would have concern that the installation of a mirror ball in a premise that has not been approved for a license that allows for the dance floor could mean that the premises is being used for purposes not allowed for by the given conditions.

SENSITIVE – LAW ENFORCEMENT

- The Sydney Fringe Festival has been reported as having a 'No DJ's, no dancing' condition under consideration for application to its licence. The Committee heard evidence that would have stopped the Festival programming dance, including ballet. What are the reasons for such a condition being considered?

Each event is considered on a case-by-case basis. The inclusion of Condition 7 'the venue is not to be used for entertainment purposes that includes DJ's and dancing' is designed to reduce the risk of antisocial behaviour associated with consumption of alcohol and to ensure the use of the venue does not impact the safety of the area and patrons.

- Do you believe that there should be six agencies in NSW charged with regulating noise in music venues?

The NSWPF recognises it is not ideal and complex to have multiple agencies involved in responding to noise complaints.

Question 3. As one of the six agencies in NSW charged with responsibility for enforcing noise regulation, do you have any views as to how we could simplify this?

RESPONSE

As stated above, NSWPF recognises the responsibility for enforcing noise regulation is not ideal and complex, however, we have an understandable interest and encourage other agencies to take appropriate action.

Question 4. In your view, who is the lead agency for noise regulation in NSW?

RESPONSE

The Local Government should be the lead agency. Police will issue noise abatement directions and take action on the premise liquor licence when the following condition is enforceable:

"The LA10 noise level emitted from the licensed premises shall not exceed the background noise level in any Octave Band Centre Frequency (31.5Hz - 8kHz inclusive) by more than 5dB between 07:00 am and 12:00 midnight at the boundary of any affected residence.

The LA10 noise level emitted from the licensed premises shall not exceed the background noise level in any Octave Band Centre Frequency (31.5Hz - 8kHz inclusive) between 12:00 midnight and 07:00 am at the boundary of any affected residence.

Notwithstanding compliance with the above, the noise from the licensed premises shall not be audible within any habitable room in any residential premises between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 07:00 am. For the purposes of this condition, the LA10 can be taken as the average maximum deflection of the noise emission from the licensed premises".

SENSITIVE – LAW ENFORCEMENT

Police will also take action against the premise Development Consent (DA) where there are usually stricter noise conditions in place. However, Police work well with the City of Sydney Licensed Premise Co-ordinators and often exchange information or intelligence. This means if there is the opportunity for Council to achieve more through the DA process and their usual measures, Police will encourage that.

Question 5. What are the factors that are considered in assessing whether a venue is low, medium or high risk?

RESPONSE

A High-Risk venue has a definition as outlined in Liquor Act 2007: -

116B (2) of Liquor Act 2007 defines a high-risk venue in a prescribed precinct. Kings Cross and Sydney CBD Entertainment Precincts are prescribed precincts.

A high-risk venue is a venue situated in a prescribed precinct comprising:

- (a) licensed premises:
 - (i) on which liquor may be sold for consumption on the premises, and
 - (ii) that are authorised to trade after midnight at least once a week on a regular basis, and
 - (iii) that have a patron capacity (as determined by the Secretary) of more than 120 patrons, or
- (b) licensed premises specified by, or of a class specified by, the regulations, or
- (c) licensed premises that are designated by the Secretary under subsection (4).

(3) The regulations may create exceptions to subsection (2) (a).

(4) The Secretary may with the concurrence of the Commissioner of Police, designate any specified licensed premises (or licensed premises of a specified class) in a prescribed precinct as a high-risk venue if the Secretary is satisfied that there is a significant degree of alcohol-related violence or other anti-social behaviour associated with the premises.

Question 6. Is the presence or either music or live entertainment a factor which is considered, and how does this impact the assessment?

RESPONSE

No- please refer above.

Question 7. What research or data is held by NSW Police about the correlation between venues which are specifically focused on music and safety?

RESPONSE

As discussed earlier, Police incident reports do not capture music types at licensed premises. Licensed premises are not obliged to report on the type of music they provide.

SENSITIVE – LAW ENFORCEMENT

Question 8. Are you aware of other research or data that may be helpful to the Committee?

RESPONSE

To date, over 330 long term banning applications have been submitted to Liquor & Gaming NSW by Sydney City Licensing Unit. To date, over 759 temporary banning orders have been issued to offenders. Sydney City Licensing Unit cannot police when these banning orders are breached by the offender.

ID scanners

All high-risk venues must install and operate approved linked ID scanners between 9pm and 1.30am (or 2am for live entertainment exempted venues). All staff operating the scanners, as well as the licensee, must have completed Privacy Competency training. Penalties apply to staff and licensees where the training has not been completed. This ID scanning system includes an integrated database allowing any person subject to a temporary or long term banning order to be identified before they enter the premises. All patrons entering high risk venues during specified times will have their photo ID scanned by a staff member who has undergone privacy training.

The ID scanner extracts:

- the photographic image that appears on the ID
- the person's name, and
- the person's date of birth and/or address.

ID scanners at certain Kings Cross venues may also record a real-time photograph of the person that has been taken by a camera contained in the scanner. Capturing real time photographs enables more immediate identification of a person and assists with post incident inquiries.

The recorded information will be used to instantly check if the person is subject to a temporary or long term banning order – which currently cannot be policed in the CBD despite the person being banned from the CBD Precinct and Kings Cross Precinct.

After the scan and verification has taken place, venue staff, including the licensee, cannot access any of the information stored on the ID scanning system i.e. they cannot access the personal details of any person. Refusing entry Importantly, a high-risk venue is required to refuse a person entry as a patron if the person:

- refuses to produce a photo ID for scanning, or
- is subject to a temporary or long-term banning order. Penalties for using false ID It is an offence for a person to provide an ID that falsely represents that person. Penalties of up to \$5,500 and on-the-spot fines of \$550 will apply to a person using a fraudulent ID.

Procedures for use Only ID scanners supplied by Group Security Solutions are allowed for use in Kings Cross.

We consider the positive results in reduced alcohol related violence in Kings Cross linked to the implementation of the identification scanning strategy.

SENSITIVE – LAW ENFORCEMENT

Question 9. Are specific genres of music considered high risk? What might these be?

RESPONSE

There is a correlation between some music genres and high-risk behaviour including anti-social behaviour, alcohol-related violence, medical episodes, injuries and drug use and distribution.

For example, the use of psychotropic illicit drugs is linked to electronic and dance music and the appeal of associated stimuli. Moreover, culturally, heavy metal is synonymous with barging into each other in the mosh pit (dance area) and it is common for broken bones and injuries to occur.

One designated high-risk venue hosted a promotion every Saturday night called 'MVP Nightclub' hosted by 2000block Entertainment. The licensee stated, that he has worked with these promoters for the past 16 months and he does not consider the promotion a risk. The promotion attracted a violent male crowd following and has been known for the same, when employed by other licensed premises. The patrons from this premise were responsible for numerous serious assaults and affray incidents that resulted in exhausting Police and ambulance resources and high media attention. The licensee was warned that the liquor licence was his responsibility and although a promotion promises to fill the venue, the onus is on the licensee for compliance and reducing the risk of harm. As a result of this promotion, Police believe that *the premise* pose a substantial safety risk to its patrons and the community.

Subsequently, the venue ceased the promotion, however now attract a RNB (reggae music). Premises are often spoken to by licensing police regarding the risk they incur when they want to engage in a 'risky' promotion.

Another high-risk premise in the CBD which can hold almost 2000 patrons regularly host various promotions that attract a younger demographic who like to indulge recreational drug use. In the past, the venue has had 6 patrons overdose in one night, this required a total of six ambulances staffed by twelve paramedics to transport the patrons to nearby hospitals. This incident placed a significant impact on local health services.

With sufficient control measures in place upon the venue's liquor licence will assist in reducing the risk of alcohol related and harm.